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AUGUST 28, 2008
ISSUE 770

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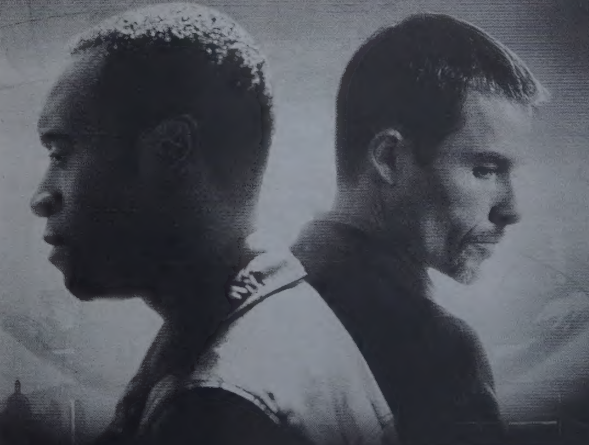
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see magazine vs: Edmonton's issues, arts and entertainment weekly,
is a division of Great West Newspapers, Limited Partnership and is available
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SEE welcomes your opinions. Please send letters to letters@see.greatwest.ca

see magazine is located at:

#200, 10275 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1X8
TEL (780) 430-9003
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Publication Mail Agreement No. 40029526

Return Undeliverable Canadian Address To Circulation Dept.

25 Chesholm Avenue, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 5A5

e-mail: readers@jhalibonguester.com



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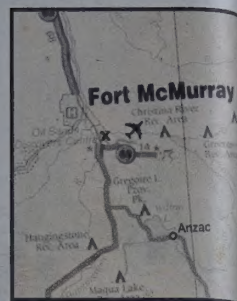
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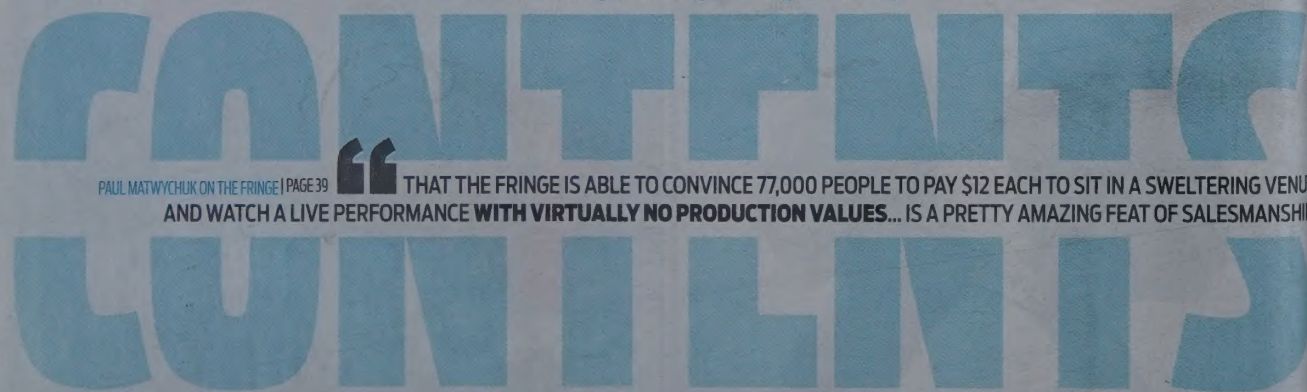
A special dispatch from Fort McMurray, the boom town that's driving Alberta's economy.



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PAUL MATWYCHUK ON THE FRINGE | PAGE 39

“ THAT THE FRINGE IS ABLE TO CONVINCE 77,000 PEOPLE TO PAY \$12 EACH TO SIT IN A SWELTERING VENUE
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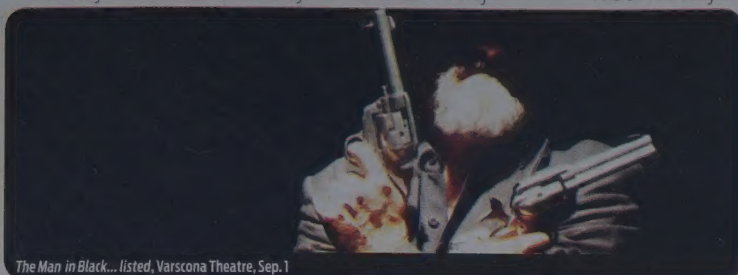
tuesday

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thursday

friday

saturday



The Man in Black... listed, Varscona Theatre, Sep. 1

AUGUST 31

theatre | **KILLING KEVIN SPACEY** Don't look so shocked — we've all flirted with the idea. What with that receding hairline, those beady eyes, that narrow smile? That guy's had it coming for years. TransAlta Art Bams, 5:45 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 1

theatre | **THE MAN IN BLACK... LISTED** For those of you who missed the Fringe Festival this year here's another holdover and another chance to redeem yourself. Just don't let it happen again or you'll have Art Stanton to deal with. Varscona Theatre, 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2

music | **PSYCHOBILLY FREAKOUT** Do your self a favour and take your brain on a bender with The Brains and The Benders at The Pawn Shop. If they don't leave you in anaphylactic shock by the end of the show, ask for your money back. 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 3

music | **MIKE PLUME BAND REUNION TOUR** He's a simple man, and if his Myspace bio is any indication, his grammar is terrible. Fortunately for old Mike, grammar isn't necessary to play good music. The Pawn Shop, 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 4

music | **FINNTROLL AND WARBRINGER** Instead of Calendar coming up with a witty quip about these bands, let's hear what the fans have to say: "The hair will fly, the heads will bang." Need we say more? Starlite Room, 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 5

music | **JEREMY DOODY** By day he's a 30-year-old U of A grad. But by night he transforms into... Okay, he's still just Jeremy Doody, but he plays instruments and sings a lot of damned entertaining songs. The Carrot, 7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 6

exhibit | **EDMONTON EXPLORED** The city passed legislation forcing vandalism victims to pay for the removal of graffiti. How ironic is it that in 2007 graffiti artists were paid to paint up our city? Either way, this exhibit will be worth a look. Art Gallery of Alberta.

SEPTEMBER 7

fundraiser | **OPEN MINDS WALK AND RUN** They say that the heart of this event is the 2.5 km fun walk. But Calendar is hardcore when it comes to fighting mental illness — so we're signing up for the 10 km run. Hawrelak Park.

SEPTEMBER 8

comedy | **HIT OR MISS MONDAYS** Amateur comedy: when it's bad, it's more awkward than running into your ex's parents when you're making out with your new girlfriend. But when it's good, it's like... well, making out with your new girlfriend! The Comic Strip.

SEPTEMBER 9

music | **YUJI HARA** Even the Japanese get the blues, and what better spokesperson for the Asian down-and-outers than Mr. Hara, who has wailed with the likes of Chaka Khan and Larry Graham. The Rock Pub and Grill, 8:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 10

therapy | **TV ON THE RADIO** Calendar doesn't get it. How can you have TV on the radio when radio doesn't have pictures? Let's hope Miles Benjamin and Anthony Robinson know. Starlite Room, 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 11

convention | **PECHA KUCHA 2** Fourteen slide shows, 20 images each, 20 seconds per show. Will you be dazzled? Amazed? There's only one way to find out. TransAlta Arts Bams, 6:30 p.m.



Trina Robbins, Happy Harbor Comics Vol. 1, Aug. 28

MUSIC | September 4

“ INSTEAD OF COMING UP WITH A WITTY QUIP ABOUT THESE BANDS, LET'S HEAR WHAT THEIR FANS HAVE TO SAY: “THE HAIR WILL FLY, THE HEADS WILL BANG.”

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Faces of the Fort

DISPATCHES FROM THE CITY THAT'S DRIVING ALBERTA

Like many big newsmakers, Fort McMurray doesn't live up to the wild stories about it.

SEE reporter Angela Brunschot recently took a five-day trip to the famous boomtown, and found its reputation for wild parties undeserved and the people to be as warm and friendly as those in any northern community.

The city has its problems, of course, but the issues that Fort McMurray residents deal with are the same across of Alberta — high rents, long workdays, and more money than anyone knows how to spend responsibly.

Here are the first of SEE's reports:

FORT McMURRAY • WORK AND PLAY • BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT | 754 words

Working Boys And Their Expensive Toys

THE YOUNG WORKERS IN ALBERTA'S BOOMTOWN MAKE BIG MONEY FAST — AND THEY SPEND IT JUST AS QUICKLY

Driving down a dirt road though boreal forest just south of Fort McMurray, we stop dead in front of a concrete roadblock on the side of the road.

On the other side of the marker is a group of about 10 guys and one lone gal on quads, ripping up a muddy open area with high jumps at the back, concealed by forest.

Kevin Paquet drives up within inches of my foot, and takes off his helmet to reveal the dirty, tanned red face of a young man who works outdoors, slick with sweat from the jump he just completed.

He's here from Quebec City, working as a hydrovac operator in the oilsands and in residential construction. He's returned home once already, and probably will again. The 22-year-old isn't bored exactly; it's just a different kind of lifestyle.

"I work pretty much all the time," he says.

His work buddy, Jeremy Landry, adds there's not much else to do — except maybe drinking. Landry's only staying in Fort McMurray until he can pay off his debts. That's \$7,000 for his yellow quad, \$10,000 for his snowmobile, \$40,000 for his Mustang, and \$76,000 for his truck. He's been in Fort McMurray for four years.

After days of touring around streets packed with white work trucks, packed high above the ground and

full of big toys in the back, Landry's collection of wheels isn't surprising. Almost everyone owns a quad, a dirt bike, or a snowmobile.

Salaries in Fort McMurray are, of course, part of the reason for these lavish recreational habits. In 2005, Statistics Canada reported the Fort's median income as \$124,592 a year; the median for the rest of the province is \$73,823.

And the whole reason most of these predominantly young men are in Fort McMurray is the money. They are here for a short period of hard work and fortune-building.

Take 19-year-old Brad McDonald. He's been in town for one month and already knows he's leaving. He's retiring back home in Nova Scotia, as quickly as possible.

"Everyone comes to Fort McMurray with a five-year plan," says Colleen Tatum, owner of MXC Racing and Off-Road Shop. She sold many of these young men their quads and snowmobiles. She knows how much they spent on accessories for their trucks, and she knows that many of them will opt to stay in town, whatever their plans. "Most people come and buy a truck," she says, "and then they buy the accessories, and a quad, so there's not much left over to go back with."

The situation is so common that a financial advisor in Ontario has caught on and is targeting young people in Fort McMurray with an "Exit Strategy" financial plan. Sparked by the experiences his own brother-in-law had while working in Fort McMurray, Falk Hampel, a German



Work Hard, Play Hard | Rather than hit the bars, Jeremy Landry (left), and Kevin Paquet (right) get dirty on their quads. PHOTO BY RILEY BRANDT

immigrant living in Sarnia, posted an internet ad aimed at the young workers who want to save enough to go home.

"Those guys are hard workers," he says, "but they are not really financial planners."

So Hampel offers them some basic investing advice, and helps with budgeting. People in their 20s don't have a realistic concept of what \$100,000 really represents, or what it can do for them. That's how they get in trouble with expensive items like quads, he says.

"Those five-year plans don't work,"

he says, "and it has a lot to do with financial planning."

When the exit plan *does* work out, young people leaving the oilsands can find themselves well ahead of the curve.

On the next night at the same site, a group of Newfoundlanders are trying out Dwayne Angell's new dirt bike, and enjoying a small tailgate party.

Shannon Rideout, a 26-year-old construction worker from Summerford, Nfld., drinks a can of Coors Light and talks about heading into Edmonton for a large tattoo for his

chest. Angell ribs him about shaving his chest later that night.

Even given little extravaganzas like a road trip for body art, he's saved enough to buy a house in Edmonton.

After living in Fort McMurray for 10 years, and working for most of that time, he can't wait to leave.

His friends aren't taking him seriously, though, and joke that he won't make it out. But he's determined, and lowering his voice, leaning in so close I can see his blond eyelashes, he repeats: "Within a month."

abrunschot@see.greatwest.ca

FORT McMURRAY • LEAVING TOWN • BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT | 174 words

So Long, Northern Lights

**VIRGINIA MEDLEYLANE
STUCK WITH FORT McMURRAY
THROUGH THE BUST, BUT NOW
SHE'S ON THE WAY OUT**

At Diggers bar in the Oilsands Hotel, an older woman with short, dark, dyed black hair, skinny arms, and dark circles under her eyes stands behind a curved shooter bar, complaining to a couple of regulars about the previous night.

A man had crawled under the bar and bit her ass. She points to her trim rear end and laughs, obviously unfazed.

On this rainy Saturday night, she takes everything in stride. Two men in jeans and ballcaps play pool in the corner, but the bar is otherwise deserted.

Virginia Medleylane and her fellow waitresses and bar tenders in Fort McMurray prayed for the current oilsands boom. In the late 1980s, she worked three jobs and longed for a return to the heady days of high oil prices and well-paying jobs.

But now, after more than 25 years in Alberta's quintessential boomtown, she longs for the quiet northern community she grew to love.

The pressures of living next to the oilsands have proved too much for her. A bout with cancer and several trips to Edmonton for treatment sealed the deal.

"I'm afraid to get old in this town," she says, adding that she plans on retiring in Edmonton in the next couple years.

Grand Plans

The 53-year-old and her husband Jake Lane moved north from Calgary at the tail end of the last boom. Even when they were both laid off from their first jobs, she wanted to stay and make a life in Fort McMurray.

Eventually Lane found work with Syncrude and Medleylane worked as a waitress, bartender, and cleaner.

Dogsledding was a passion she acquired in the 1980s, and for a while ran a winter tourist business offering Japanese travelers a taste of northern life — including a sled ride at breakneck speeds through the forests surrounding Fort McMurray, and a glimpse of the northern lights.

She also volunteered with the local mushers association, and organized the Engstrom-Silver Run across the Saskatchewan border into La Loche.

The couple built a beautiful two-storey open-concept home in the Saprae Creek area, just south of town. Nestled in tight boreal forest, Medleylane built her house in the centre of two lots, planted wild rose bushes, and planned to stay there for the rest of her life.

In 2000 she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. The trips into Edmonton for treatment added stress to an already difficult time.

Other small changes also added up. As fewer volunteers were available for group activities, the mushers association folded, she says. The cost of keeping the dogs escalated, and in 2004 Medleylane gave up mushing, retiring her dogs and keeping them as pets.

For a while she enjoyed skiing and running with her last remaining dog, 16-year-old Lionus, on trails near her home, but nowadays, she says, those trails are almost always crowded with snowmobiles in winter and quads in summer.

Many of her friends have retired and left town. Only two per cent of the population of the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo, which includes Fort McMurray, are 65 or older.

And so, she has fewer activities

rounding out her work life. With no children and only one dog left, she has little reason to stay.

Over at the Golden Years Society in downtown Fort McMurray, Roberta Overland, a 65-year-old retiree originally from northern Manitoba, spends her mornings as a volunteer secretary. She agrees that medical care is worrisome. She's recently traveled to both Edmonton and Calgary for medical treatment. (In his 2007 report *Investing in Our Future: Responding to the Rapid Growth of Oil Sands Development*, former deputy environment minister and consultant Doug Radke found that Fort McMurray's health services were performing below average.)

But Overland objects to the notion that Fort McMurray is only a city for the young. "There are things to do," she says, "if you make an effort to get involved."

Many of her friends have left as well, she says, but she fills her days with volunteer jobs and the occasional short-term job. She recently did a two-month stint at a nursery during planting, a very fulfilling job she might not have been able to do in a city with more readily available labour, she says.

But for Medleylane, work isn't enough. She pushed hard for 25 years, through the worst times in Fort McMurray. She wants recreation and time with friends in her later life. Her husband will be retiring within the next few years, and they are moving to Edmonton.

"I feel really blessed that I had the opportunity," she says, without bitterness, of her time in Fort McMurray. "I'm concerned now that young people coming into town aren't going to have the same life that I did."

abrunschot@see.greatwest.ca



Leaving Town | Virginia Medleylane won't retire in Fort McMurray. PHOTO BY RILEY BRANDT

FORT McMURRAY • BUSINESS • BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT | 511 words

"Citizens Want A Diverse Economy"

**SMALL, LOCAL BUSINESSES IN
FORT McMURRAY STRUGGLE
TO FIND SPACE**

At 11 a.m. on a Wednesday there's a line-up of six people at the MXC Racing and Off-Road Shop on Franklin Avenue, which sells quads, snowmobiles, and does vehicle upgrades.

A sign by the door informs patrons that Syncrude staff gift certificates are only accepted with employee ID.

On a pillar opposite that sign is another one explaining that the shop will close on long weekends.

Owner Colleen Tatum and her husband Adam recently cut back to 60 hours a week, but they could be open and busy 24 hours, seven days

a week.

"We could probably be doing three times the business," she says, "but we don't have the space or the staff to do it."

Born and raised in Fort McMurray, she loves the booming northern city and doesn't want to leave, but business opportunities will play into any future decisions, she says. Right now, there's a "real crisis" in retail. Rents are increasing from an average of \$20 per square foot to \$50, she says.

"Unless you are also selling to Syncrude or Sunco," she says "you can't just offer normal services to the public."

High demand for retail space has

pushed up prices. The population of Fort McMurray has gone from about 45,000 to 65,000 people in the past five years. In the whole regional municipality of Wood Buffalo, there were 89,167 people in 2007, and that's not even counting the shadow population in work camps.

Still, very little commercial land has been added to Fort McMurray, says Chamber of Commerce vice-president Ted Doleman.

The River Pointe strip mall in the downtown is closing to make way for a condo development.

When Acree Design owner Vi Marten heard that, she decided it was a good time to retire. The Tall Cree woman from Fort Vermilion

will close her alterations and custom wedding apparel shop.

"There's no place for a small business in Fort McMurray," she says. "We're being squeezed out."

Spoiled Rotten, a hair and nail salon in the same strip mall, is staying in business, but they are moving out of downtown and into the suburbs.

The chamber has asked the city for more mixed residential and commercial areas, condos with retail on the bottom, for example, so that the much-needed housing doesn't completely usurp businesses.

And it's not just a downtown problem, as business isn't blooming in the suburbs either.

Doleman estimates that 15,000 people have moved into Timberlea, a suburb on the northwest, but only one additional grocery store has been added into the community.

The province did recently open up more land for development just south of Fort McMurray in the Saline Creek area, but even there, Doleman says the province has not included enough commercial areas. This poor planning means residents lack services, and the business community is stunted. "Citizens want a diverse economy," he says. "They want local services and they want their children to be able to find work in the community."

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Londonderry Mall
Southgate Centre

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OMEGACELL
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Mill Woods Town Centre
West Edmonton Mall
Londonderry Mall

FUTURE SHOP



WIRELESSWAVE



WAL-MART

EDMONTON

CENTRAL

10176 - 109 St.
(780) 426-2355

12302 Stony Plain Rd.
(780) 489-6622

Westgrove Shopping Centre
14822 Stony Plain Rd.
(780) 443-3022

Edmonton City Centre
10200 - 102 Ave.
(780) 421-4540

EAST

Caplano Mall
(outside entrance by Safeway)
(780) 450-6880

6839 - 83 St. (Argyll Rd.)
(780) 465-5271

SOUTH

Millwoods Main Street Mall
6558 - 28 Ave. (by Tim Horton's)
(780) 440-2812

6031 Gateway Blvd.
(780) 438-2355

Southgate Centre
(780) 434-5620

Southgate Centre
(780) 439-0435

South Edmonton Common
(780) 485-9812

3120 Parsons Rd.
(780) 702-6001

NORTH

9715 - 137 Ave.
(780) 456-5339

WEST

West Edmonton Mall Phase I
(lower level near
Galaxy Land entrance)
(780) 484-4758

West Edmonton Mall Phase II
(by skating rink)
(780) 413-9855

West Edmonton Mall Phase III
(by London Drugs)
(780) 443-3040

West Edmonton Mall, Chinatown
(next to T&T Supermarket)
(780) 483-8838

10013 - 170 St.
(780) 408-8917

Mayfield Common
10608 - 170 St.
(780) 489-2255

GRANDE PRRIE

Prairie Mall
(780) 513-2355

11020 - 100 Ave.
(780) 539-7148

FT. McMURRAY

Peter Pond Mall
(780) 714-6150

LEDUC

6104 - 50 St.
(780) 986-0986

RED DEER

7819 - 50 Ave.
(403) 346-4455

Southpointe Common
(403) 348-5777

Bower Place
(403) 314-5500

ST. ALBERT

Inglewood Town Centre
(780) 419-2355

740 St. Albert Rd.
(780) 459-0660

SHERWOOD PARK

993 Fir St.
(780) 417-2355

SPIRUE GROVE

#112 183 Highway 16A
(780) 962-3580

EDMONTON

Kingsway Garden Mall
(780) 471-3807

Londonderry Mall
(780) 476-3266

Northgate Mall
(780) 475 - 2724

Bonnie Doon Mall
(780) 463-0864

Millwoods Town Centre
(780) 436-7766

RED DEER

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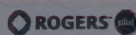
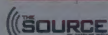
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FORT McMURRAY • TRAVEL NOTES • BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT | 615 words

Fort McMurray In Five Days



City In The Woods | You're never far from the forest in Fort McMurray. PHOTO BY RILEY BRANDT

SEE'S NOTEBOOK OF RANDOM SIGHTS AND SOUNDS FROM THE STREETS OF THE BUSTLING NORTHERN BOOMTOWN

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

Afternoon

On Highway 63, farmland gives way to thick boreal forest near the small town of Grassland. Long stretches of forest are burnt, the tree trunks sticking out of the ground like charred bones.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3

Morning

The tiny plane that's about to take us over the oilsands looks more like a toy than an actual aircraft, and the eggs we had for breakfast that morning rumble with displeasure.

Once we're in the air, though, the beauty of the forest surrounding Fort McMurray takes over. As we fly over the actual oilsands operations, there's a faint smell, like someone on

your block just paved their driveway. The huge Syncrude and Suncor tailings ponds are much less impressive from the air than the Greenpeace photos of their recent protest, but the desolate land at the end of the line before we turn around, what looks like a desert or a moonscape, does pack a devastating visual punch.

MONDAY, AUG. 4

Morning

The downtown library is filled with young men. Some are well-dressed, as if they are heading to a job interview. Others sport the classic Fort McMurray dirty jeans and T-shirts. They sit in low chairs near the front, waiting for their turn on the Internet terminals supplied by Syncrude and Suncor.

Later, at the Damal Internet Café on Hardin Street, a group of young to middle-aged black men gather around a single computer to watch a Barack Obama biography. The owner, 38-year-old Keyse Serar from So-

malia, has spent the last six years in Fort McMurray: "To make money," he says simply.

The condo-turned-business isn't exactly state-of-the-art. The computer desks must have been painted after they were nailed to the wall, because brown paint smears the white walls where the desks sit. On the far side of the room, a homemade table has nails sticking out of it. But the Internet connection is faster than the one at the public library.

Afternoon

At Helen Arong's Fine Fashions, also on Hardin Street, Menchu Malubay finds her retail job much less exciting than her work as a pharmacist in the Philippines.

She moved to Fort McMurray on a two-year contract as a temporary foreign worker, and has been in town for two months. When she arrived, the trees surrounding Fort McMurray brought on a feeling of claustrophobia, and all she wanted to do was turn around and go home to Cebu.

Later, amid the welcome air con-

ditioning of Chow's Variety Store on Franklin Avenue, a couple of Canadian kids stand at the far end of a long counter and till debating what they should order for lunch while watching *Star Wars* on a TV mounted above the video rack. They eventually agree on chow mein.

TUESDAY, AUG. 5

Night

At the Oil Can, security guards run a metal detector over us before we enter the deserted bar. The coat check smells like men's cologne, something along the lines of Old Spice, only muskier.

On the left side of the stage where a new country group mangles a couple of CCR tunes is a cigarette machine and, around the corner, a wooden Native Canadian statue. On the wall directly to our left is a bison head, the only one we'll see the entire trip.

The metal detector is hardly necessary, on this night at least. Two obviously drunk women in ripped jeans

dance to new country. And then kiss. That's the wildest thing we see all night.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6

Afternoon

Downtown Fort McMurray isn't really a downtown. There's a mall, a strip mall, a bunch of townhouses and apartments, another strip mall, and then the looming box stores — Wal-Mart, Canadian Tire, and Rona. (Outside Wal-Mart, a bottle of water costs a whopping \$2.50.)

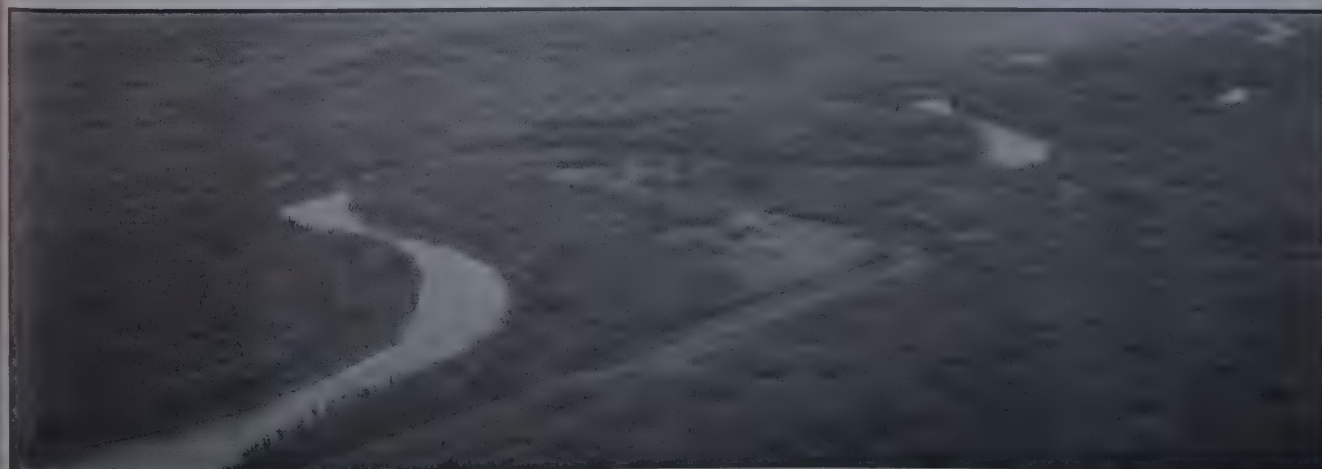
Franklin Avenue itself is a bleak stretch, with few trees or shade and almost no street-level storefronts.

THURSDAY, AUG. 7

Morning

In the van on the way home, the forest gives way to the flat prairie landscape of home, and some of the bigness of Fort McMurray fades away.

abrunschot@see.greatwest.ca



Aerial Athabasca | The river twists through forest and eventually into town. PHOTO BY RILEY BRANDT

SPEAKER • BUDDHISM • BY JEFF HOLUBITSKY (576 words)

Mammon, Monks, And Meditation

**LAMA DAMCHO RINPOCHE
TEACHES EDMONTONIANS
HIS VERSION OF THE
GOLDEN RULE**

DAMCHO RINPOCHE

Event details: Aug. 29 (7 p.m.) Korean Buddhist Temple (10755 89th St.) \$10 donation suggested.

Buddhist lama Damcho Rinpoche is bringing two messages this week on his first trip to Edmonton.

The first, for the devout Edmonton practitioners of traditional Tibetan Buddhism in the ornate basement temple of the Karma Tashi Ling Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Society, will concentrate on highly involved visualization techniques in meditation.

His second message, to be delivered at in a public talk Friday, is aimed at those who want a break from the confusing bustle of modern life. He believes the pressures of work and consumerism are making us sick.

“In Western society,” he says in a translated phone interview from the San Francisco area, “there is a lot of physical development and material development, and because of this, people have a lot of mental difficul-

ties. So learning how to rest your mind is very important.”

His talk will focus on simple techniques, such as posture and prayer, that anyone can use to slow a racing mind and clear it of the daily clutter that prevents focus on the things that really matter.

“We have problems and we feel we have no one to help us,” he says. “The main thing we need to do is have a good mind and a kind heart.”

In a message universally accepted by major religions, he says people with kind hearts help others. And what goes around, comes around.

“If we don’t have a kind heart and are always wandering around scowling at people and not being nice, then no one is going to like us and no one is going to trust us,” he says. “But if we have a kind heart and are nice to people, then people will treat us well and bring us happiness.”

Ani Kunsang, a Buddhist nun from Nepal who arrived in Edmonton three years ago to operate the meditation centre, says Damcho was appointed as a traveling teacher by spiritual leader Thangru Rinpoche. Damcho is on a tour of North America. Thangru has established centres



Peaceful Prayer Ani Kunsang, a Buddhist nun from Nepal, at the Edmonton meditation centre. PHOTO BY JIMMY JEONG

throughout Asia, North America, and Europe to preserve the religion which has been under attack in Tibet by China’s Communist government.

The Edmonton meditation centre, established in 1985, has about 10 to 15 members, Kunsang says. “We do here, basic meditations for tranquility,” Kunsang, also called Ani La, says. “Meditation is not only good for the mind, but for the body too.”

Damcho was born 35 years ago as the oldest of five children in a

small village in northern Nepal, not far from the Tibetan border. From a young age, he lived with his grandmother, who insisted he become a monk despite his father’s need for help on the farm.

“In Nepal we consider what our parents say to be extremely important,” he says. “So when my grandmother kept saying over and over again that I must be a monk, my father eventually had to listen to what his mother was saying.”

He entered a monastery on the outskirts of Katmandhu as a young teenager and lives there still, when he isn’t teaching Buddhists around the world.

“We are all working for peace in the world, but it is also important that we work to bring some peace for ourselves,” he says. “You don’t really have to be a Buddhist. You just have to avoid harming and try to help other beings as much as possible.”

jholubitsky@see.greatwest.ca

COMMENTARY • POLITICS (790 words)

Thinking People Actually Chose Me

GUEST EXPERT MAURICE TOUGAS
**FORMER MLA MAURICE
TOUGAS DOESN’T MISS THE
LEGISLATURE, EVEN IF HE
DOES MISS THE PAY**

[Editor’s note: This column is the first in a series of three commentaries on provincial affairs by former Edmonton-Meadowlark Liberal MLA Maurice Tougas.]

It was early 2005, and the first day of my first session as an honourable Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Province of Alberta.

I was now officially a Big Shot, a Somebody, a Man of Substance. Thinking people actually chose me, Maurice Tougas, to represent them. For someone whose only previous experience in politics was being room rep for my junior high school student council (I attended one meeting and was pretty much impeached afterwards) this was heady stuff. I was previously editor of the *Edmonton Examiner*, and of late a struggling

freelance writer who would write an ad feature for Sid’s Used Shoe Shack if the price was right (i.e., anything).

Now here I was, a member of the legislature of the province of Alberta.

I was a lawmaker.

I was a man who could now actually influence the course of human events.

I was decider, just like George Bush, only on a somewhat smaller scale.

On my first day of my first legislative session, I walked up the grand marble staircase leading to the chamber. It was where I imagined the 83 men and women chosen to lead the province would engage in vigorous but respectful debate, weigh the pros and cons of important pieces of legislation, and arrive at consensus decisions for the good of all Albertans.

As I walked up the stairs with my fellow MLAs, our every step was followed by TV and newspaper cameras. A CBC reporter walked up to me and asked me to comment on the significance of the day. I said some

forgettable platitudes (a big, stupid “I can’t believe I’m here” grin plastered across my face) about what a great day it was, and how proud I was to participate in the democratic process, yadda yadda yadda.

When the interview was over and the camera turned off, the reporter turned to me blankly and said, “And who are you?”

My ego crashed and burned like a fighter plane shot from the sky.

But the reporter’s question would prove to be prophetic. Even though I was elected fair and square, defeating an incumbent who spent tens of thousands of dollars more on the campaign than I did, I felt like a bit of a fraud, like a lottery winner buying a mansion in a gated community.

I was an Alberta Liberal MLA, which at once made me a somebody by virtue of my suddenly exalted position in the community, and a nobody by virtue of being a member of the wrong party.

Before the year was out, the exhilaration of walking into the Legislature

building that first day would be replaced by a feeling not unlike the first day of school after summer break. Well before Ed Stelmach called the unnecessary election of 2007, I had already made up my mind that politics was not for me, and that I was not going to stand for re-election. (Judging from the results, it was one of my smarter decisions.) A lot of people ask me if I miss being an MLA, and my honest answer is no. Not for a moment. Oh, I miss the pay, which is the best money I’ve ever made. And I miss a couple of the perks, like the pass for unlimited meter parking in Edmonton, or the credit card that paid for my gas. (Boy, do I miss that card.) And I miss the people I worked with — my friends and fellow MLAs and the young, always incredibly smart people who work for the official opposition.

But otherwise, no. Not for a second.

You see, the legislature is an exclusive club with no standards. If you’re from rural Alberta — the land of rug-

ged individuals and scary groupthink — the only prerequisite to joining the club is holding a valid Progressive Conservative party membership. No others need apply. It helps if you know how to chew gum and walk at the same time, but it’s not entirely necessary. As a government MLA, your job is to sit quietly, like Rod Flanders on a long car ride. As long as you can do that, you’re in.

Over the next three and a half years, I would learn a lot about Alberta-style democracy. I would learn that we are living in a system that is skewed ridiculously towards the powerful, where the media is shockingly meek and compliant, where the ruling party pulls every trick in the legislative book to make sure that their opponents are belittled and denigrated at every opportunity. I also learned that what goes on in the legislature doesn’t make a lick of difference to anything.

And I would learn that I while I enjoy politics, I didn’t like being a politician.

“OUR GOVERNMENT WILL NOT REOPEN THE DEBATE ON ABORTION.”

—FEDERAL JUSTICE MINISTER ROB NICHOLSON
ON THE UNBORN VICTIMS OF CRIME BILL, QUOTED IN THE GLOBE AND MAIL



WITNESS

AUGUST 23, 2008 7:30:56 PM | PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

Aytahn Ross performs at the Fringe Festival.

OUR COMMENT ON THIS WEEK'S NEWS

EDMONTON • PORN AND RELIGION PUMP UP THE PUBLIC ACCESS

SEE rarely finds any common ground with conservative family groups, but when these groups make cogent arguments for freedom of speech, we have to get on board — even if that's not what they intended.

The Canadian Family Action Coalition has called upon the Stephen Harper government to continue their prudish streak and shut down the recently approved porn channel Northern Peaks, owned by a Sherwood Park company. The conservative group argues that porn channels get more play than religious channels because of ad revenue.

And we agree — that's not right. Religion and sex should each have equal access to the airwaves. Down with censorship! Orgasms and biblical instruction for all!

But rather than shut down the porn channel, why not allow more public access television so the programs that don't get a lot of ad financing can still produce content?

After all, citizens own the airwaves.

EDMONTON • ABORTION RIGHTS UNBORN VICTIMS OF CRIME

The federal Conservatives announced this week that they are putting aside Edmonton-Sherwood Park MP Ken Epp's Unborn Victims of Crime bill. The controversial bill would have made the killing of a fetus a separate offence from an attack on a pregnant woman.

Pro-choice groups fought hard against the bill, and the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada called it a sneaky attempt to criminalize abortion. The bill may be set aside for now, but the Conservatives will try again with another bill, one that clearly states that the bill has nothing to do with a woman's right to choose.

But Epp's bill also included a clause stating, in effect, that his bill had nothing to do with abortion rights, so it's unclear what language the Conservatives could possibly cook up to get the bill passed. But perhaps they are just waiting for a better time — say, when there's not an election in the air?

WORLD • OLYMPICS SO OVER BEIJING

Hooray! The Olympics are over!

The glowing media reports on how well the Chinese government organized the events were a little stomach-turning considering they also rejected 77 applications to stage protests — two of them from grannies who were then sentenced to hard labour “re-education.” Somehow, though, we're all supposed to forget about human rights because China puts on a good show.

And let's just be totally crass and talk about the money.

China's \$40 billion Olympic tab seems wildly out of control. Imagine what a \$1 billion investment in internet development or even environmental cleanup would have meant to both China and the world.

Instead of being an encouragement for China to clean up their act in order to have a better relationship with the rest of the world, the Olympics have just legitimized the government.

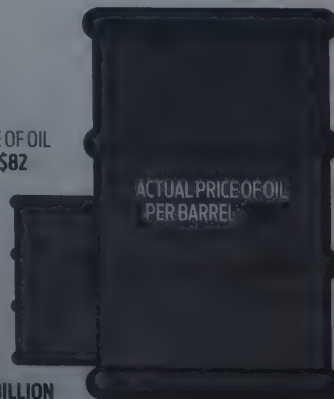
BY THE NUMBERS

UNDER BUDGET
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT'S OIL PRICE ESTIMATE AND TOTAL BUDGET SURPLUS FOR 2008
SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

BUDGETED PRICE OF OIL
PER BARREL: \$82

ACTUAL PRICE OF OIL
PER BARREL

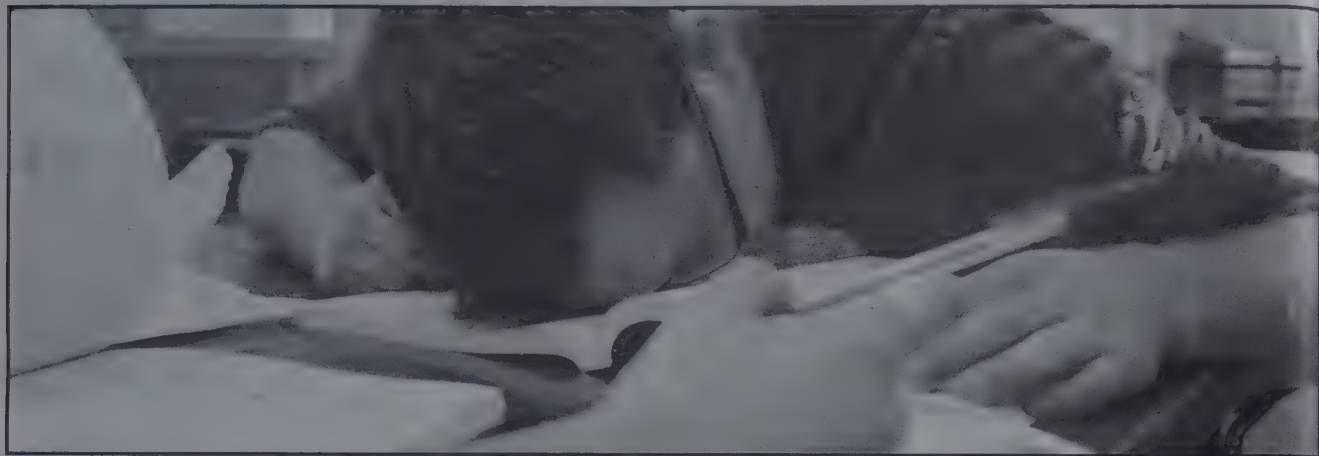
SURPLUS: \$8.5 BILLION



— GRANT MACEWAN TRANSFER STUDENT, NATURAL ENEMY OF SERIOUSLY BROKEASS U OF A UNDERGRADS

STUDENT LIFE • INTO THE WILD • COMPILED BY ANDREW PAUL, RENATO PAGNANI & FAWNDA MITHRUSH | 1162 words

Spot The Undergrad!



Wonder Wonder Which School He's Going To? | Hmmm, note the carefully chosen frames, the hoodie, the exhaustion... most likely a U of A undergrad. But there are those manicured nails—a possible MacEwan student. PHOTO BY ANDREW PAUL

SEE ROUNDS UP STUDENTS FROM EDMONTON'S TOP THREE POST-SEC INSTITUTIONS FOR SOME COMPARISON FUN

It's coming. The downtown nine-to-fivers know it all too well. The day when all the buses will be full once again — the seats and aisles piled with fresh-faced youngsters weighed down by ridiculously huge backpacks and soaked in that odd olfactory combination of sweat, fear, and new books.

That's right: the day is here. It's September. School's back. And just for a little fun, for those of you in school, past school, or waiting to get in (or those looking to pick up any cute students from one or all of these fine institutions), we've got a little game for you. It's *SEE's* Spot The Student Game — once mastered, you'll be able to spot any undergrad in the wild of the city and discern where they study, how much they've got in their tummies, and how tanked they are at any given moment. (Note: files are compiled from real-life observations of and conversations with students in the city, and do not necessarily reflect the attitudes/tendencies of all students at any given institution. Please, enjoy responsibly.)

THE U OF A ARTS UNDERGRAD a.k.a. Why The Hell Am I Buying This \$20,000 Scrapsheet When I'll Never Afford A Car Anyway?

Uniform: Some form of hoodie and/or t-shirt combined with jeans. Nearly every U of A student we ran into mentioned these articles. Girls and boys. (Identification hint: check for comfort value, with a whiff of

"I don't give a shit how I look, I'm a fucking uni student with no time or money." They do usually boast well-chosen frames — not contacts! — and coifed/washed hair.)

Average Age: 20

Last Year's GPA: 3.1

Owes The Man: "About \$2,000 ■ year, and growing!"

Owes The School (This Year): \$5,620

On The iPod: "Anything under the sun." There was that comment in *Pineapple Express* about how all uni students somehow end up falling for *Godspeed You! Black Emperor* and *The Shins*... but we digress.

Eating: Most respondents cited some sort of Asian variation found in HUB: Edo Japan, Hoho, or The Jacket Potato Man. There were a few who admitted to eating at New York Fries, but these were not as common as those who said, "My mom still packs me Lunchables sometimes."

Drinking: "When it's not some form of caffeine at Cookies By George or the Sugar Bowl, it's chai at Remedy, or the dollar draught on Thursday nights in the basement of Hudson's on campus."

Reading: "*The Spiritual Brain*, *Rest Area*, *Born on a Blue Day*, and *Hollow Chocolate Bunnies of the Apocalypse*."

Transportation: "Bike, bus, drive, walk, train. Whatever works best or makes most sense."

Watching: *The Dark Knight*. Surprisingly, this seemed to be the only movie any of the uni kids saw all summer.

Playing: "Never Have I Ever..." is pretty fun. You usually either end up hating your friends, finding out too

much about them, or going to bed with one of them. I swear, you never see people the same way after a couple hours of that."

Sleeps: Most we talked to lived in their parents' house in the 'burbs, either Mill Woods or St. Albert.

Mantra: "Work hard, play hard."

THE NAIT TRADES CERTIFICATE STUDENT

a.k.a. Working Hard For The Money

Uniform: Usually wears "clothes," jeans and t-shirts are standard. When in class, lab coats and steel-toe boots are required. (Identification hint: It's in the shoes! These are rarely changed during the transfer from school to home.)

Average Age: 24

Last Year's GPA: "Let's just say I rocked that shit."

Owes The Man: "When it's all said and done, I have about \$40,000 in student debt."

Owes The School (This Year): \$3,684

On The iPod: "I like to listen to some solid old school Green Day or Wolf Mother. The Doors and The Beatles are good too, depending on my mood."

Eating: "For lunch I like to eat at the Blue Plate, no exceptions. It's a hot lunch for \$6, and the menu changes every day."

Drinking: "I don't really drink off-campus that much; when I do it's usually at Hudson's. Normally, though, I like to take my booze at the Nest on campus or, if the situation calls for it, a good stiff drink in the middle of a lecture goes down nice, which is usually every day before 10

a.m. On average, I'd say I have one or two beers a day, but of course that goes up around finals. That's when I like to get a good game of beer pong going with my lab partners. If I can't find a decent ping-pong ball kicking around, I'll settle for a nightly Quarters tournament until exams are done."

Reading: "My reading list during the semester consists mostly of dictionaries, glossaries, and about a metric tonne of other equally dry textbooks. There's no time for leisure reading around here."

Transportation: "I drive my 2003 Civic to school."

Watching: "I saw *Death Race* a few days ago, but *Iron Man* was probably the best movie of the summer."

Playing: "Beer pong. Or Sociables. Or Quarters."

Sleeps: "I live in an apartment on Jasper Avenue with my kickass wife."

Mantra: "I need to start working."

THE MACEWAN-TO-UNIVERSITY TRANSFERER

a.k.a. Still Stuck In High School

Uniform: Organic wool pullovers for chilly fall days, generally anything hipsterish: earth tones, stripes, slip-on shoes, skinny jeans. (Identification hint: We found that MacEwan students, in general, spent more time on their appearance — which poses great difficulty when trying to differentiate between these students and the Metro College and High School students scattered throughout the downtown core.)

Average Age: 22

Last Year's GPA: "2.7 and I'm damn proud."

Owes The Man: "I don't have student debt. I have parents who love me and pay for my worthless school endeavours."

Owes The School (This Year): \$3,600

On The iPod: "I like downers like David Gray, Jeff Buckley, Damien Rice, and depressing songs to pass the day. Oh, and Chromeo is pretty sweet."

Eating: "Brado's Pizza for the \$6.50 steak, and I also go to Scrape — that's what we call the cafeteria on the Arts campus."

Drinking: "Sometimes I go to my car for a good cry and sip on the bottle of vodka I keep under my seat. Otherwise beers at Brado's are delicious."

Reading: "I read about 300 books a semester because of my insomnia. I like to leaf through a lot of Hemingway, John O'Brien, and R.L. Stine. I can't get enough of the bumpy letters on those *Goosebumps* books."

Transportation: "I drive. The bus is for chumps. I don't understand why I have to pay \$90 for a UPASS."

Watching: "I hate TV, but I did catch *Pineapple Express* in theatres the other day."

Playing: "Sociables is the best drinking game, it helps me cope with midterm angst."

Sleeps: "I have insomnia, so I lie in bed for hours pondering my life. But when I do sleep, I sleep in my bedroom at my parent's place. They don't let me bring girls into the house — I don't want to talk about it."

Mantra: "Let her see that fancy footwork."

WRITING • STUDENT SURVIVAL • BY MELISSA PRIESTLEY (902 words)

Drinking Games: Post-Sec Edition

HERE'S A FEW MORE IDEAS TO KEEP YOUR STUDY BUDDIES ON THEIR TOES (OR OFF THEM) AT THE BACK-TO-CLASS BEER GARDENS

Let me preface this by stating an obvious (yet often unheeded) word of caution: drink responsibly. Now, I know you aren't always going to drink in moderation — hell, I encourage the odd binge-drinking episode; I believe it builds character — but please be smart about it. At some point you'll be tempted to throw caution to the wind and plow through an entire bottle of tequila in an hour. Don't. Make that tequila last three hours at least. Better yet, drink only half the bottle. You'll still be shitfaced, but you won't ruin the party by passing out in the twitching blackness of alcohol poisoning, forcing your slightly-less-drunk friends to haul your vomit-splattered ass to the emergency room for an entertaining night of stomach pumps and

must be played with a drink in one hand), stepping over the imaginary line in front of the table, handing off the Frisbee (it must always be tossed), missing a turn (throwing alternates between players), bouncing the Frisbee off the ground in front of the opponents, or throwing way off course.

JANE AUSTEN

This game is the invention of Edmonton's Mostly Water Theatre sketch theatre troupe, written originally for CBC's *The Irrelevant Show* and recently featured at the Fringe in IUP. You can get the full rules by following the links on Mostly Water's website, but essentially the game just takes all the hoity and/or girly conventions of a Jane Austen novel and assigns drink values to each. For example: a woman's display of conceited independence earns you one drink, while the realization of true love means you have to chug. Grab a copy of *Pride and Prejudice* and get to work. It's way funnier if you're fa-

cards vary from group to group. Queen = girls drink. King = guys drink. You get the idea (Hint: it's helpful to write out a master list of the cards and their meanings prior to the game.) Consult the internet or your friends for a complete set of rules, but remember it's often more fun to improvise.

THE (INSERT MID-TERM STUDY SUBJECT HERE) DRINKING GAME

Alright, people, this is post-secondary; it's time to be creative. Making up your own drinking game is much easier than studying for a midterm; you just need your "study material," a drink, and a set of rules. The basic template for a game is to assign a drink (or a number of drinks) to something that occurs fairly frequently in the material — playing up stereotypes makes it all the more entertaining (and a more effective study tool). Reading classic Canadian literature? Take a drink every time nature is personified. Watching an Italian neorealist film? Take a drink for each example of working class poverty. Studying psychology? Take a drink every time you read the word "cognitive." You get the idea.

READING CLASSIC CANADIAN LITERATURE? TAKE A DRINK EVERY TIME NATURE IS PERSONIFIED. WATCHING AN ITALIAN NEOREALIST FILM? TAKE A DRINK FOR EACH EXAMPLE OF WORKING CLASS POVERTY.

delirium tremens.

With that out of the way, I'll stop lecturing you like an ornery professor. Now, for many of you new post-secondary students it's the first time you really get to flex those drinking muscles (and you'll soon realize the full implications of that phrase); at first, getting drunk any old way is entertaining enough. But after your third or fourth kegger you may feel the need to get creative with your boozing, so here's a brief rundown of some tried and true inebriation sports.

BEERSBEE

September usually has its share of warm days, so do yourself a favour and get outside to enjoy the lush, verdant campus before it turns into a barren wasteland of frigid, suicide-inducing wind and hip-shattering icy sidewalks. To play, you'll need two small tables placed 40 feet apart, an empty beer bottle on each table, a Frisbee, and four players. The object of the game is to knock down your opponent's beer bottle, causing the opposing team to chug their drinks. In addition, the Frisbee must be caught on each turn; if it hits the ground, the team who missed it must take a drink. The game is usually played with a few other rules, such as taking a drink for dropping or spilling your drink (the game

miliar with the material (go English Majors, go!), plus I can personally guarantee that you've got a one-in-three chance of having a Jane Austen novel on your ENGL 101 syllabus, so you might as well start "studying."

QUARTERS

Such a simple game, yet absolutely guaranteed to have you falling off your chair in no time. All you need is an empty cup and a quarter. Everyone sits in a circle around a table and takes turns bouncing the quarter off the table and into the cup. If you miss, you take a drink. If you succeed, the play passes to the next person; if they miss, they must take two drinks, but if they succeed, the play keeps passing around the table until someone finally misses, taking a drink for each previous successful attempt.

SOCIABLES

This is probably the most common college drinking game out there, to the point that it's become a little redundant. Countless versions exist but the basic rules involve spreading a deck of cards around an empty cup on the table, and then having each player draw a card and perform the action associated with the card. Cards numbered A-4 usually denote the number of swigs to be passed on to other players, while the penalties associated with the other numbered

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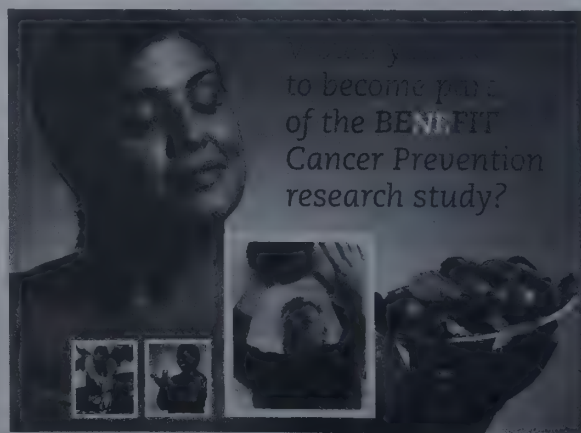
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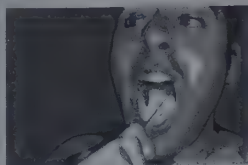
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CITY LIVES - BORDER CROSSING (82 words)

The Long Road Home



MY TOWN SCOTT LINGLEY
NOW AT SUMMER'S END, THE LAST ROAD TRIP EVER WINDS THROUGH THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND

"There's no short cut
And no straight line
How am I to find the sleeping
country?"

Ghost horse in my head keeping
time

Wandering lines. . .

The eerily prescient iPod, which had already dredged up "Sault St. Marie" by Joe Henry as we passed the eponymous steeltown on the voyage east, shuffled onto "Trans Canada" from the Constantines' *Kensington Heights*, just as the secondary road that had whisked us across the world's largest freshwater island and onto the north shore of Lake Huron turned into the 17, that squiggly ribbon of two-lane highway that threads up and around Lake Superior linking Ontario to Manitoba and the treasures of the west. Bry Webb belted, "Traaa-aaa-aans Canaduh! Hell and gone!" and we knew just what he meant. Even this far from civilization, we were two days' worth of staring through a windshield away from Winnipeg.

This time, though, we opted to skip the drive across the Canadian Shield and cut through the U.S. of A., provided we could negotiate the border crossing into the upper peninsula of Michigan without provoking an international incident. Never mind the possibility of an errant roach or some other crumb of evidence that the automobile carried nefarious casual drug users; we were just as worried that some yahoo customs agent would have our car stripped to the lugnuts in search of contraband agricultural products, the latest peril to slop across America's boundaries from the North. As it was, we waited much longer in the line-up to enter Ted Nugent Country than it took to undergo a perfunctory questioning

by a startlingly personable border guard. And, quite accidentally, we smuggled in two Fuji apples we had forgotten about and a bag of Canadian beef jerky. We hastily ate the evidence.

It had been a long time since I'd been eyeball to eyeball with any Americans and I was keen to voyage across the heartland—Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota—to get a whiff of the cultural moment on the eve of America's most important presidential election (the third so far this century). But the first task at hand was to hit a gas station for a cheap fill-up, cheap booze, and cheap smokes. Surprising how our priorities tend to align with America's once we enter their turf.

You won't wait long for Americans remind you of the fact that they are by and large much friendlier than Canadians. Not only do they greet you in the street like they already know you, they often speak to you like they're just picking up a conversation they had previously left off with you, as I discovered moments

close proximity with our gargantuan neighbours and set about pitching our diminutive tent. The caps were barely off our bottles of Sam Adams Summer Ale when some folks from across the way hailed us and invited us to come sit by their fire later on. Could this be our hoped-for rendezvous with our continental cohabitants?

Our hosts certainly had all the trappings of American-style acquisitiveness—their ring of inhabitable vehicles formed a courtyard in which they sat snacking and getting quietly blotto around a raging campfire of treated lumber chunks prickled with nails. "Quietly" isn't entirely accurate. After they enquired about us, their voices rose collectively to detail a summer of motorized leísmo all up and down the state, peaking at they described how they "met" Madonna at a film festival in Traverse City. When pressed, they admitted they only saw her getting out of the limo surrounded by bodyguards. Same diff.

Their vigorous crosstalk on the

THEIR VIGOROUS CROSTALK ON THE MOST MUNDANE TOPIC WAS LACED WITH ENVIRO-BLIVIOUSNESS, CONTEMPT FOR THE DISENFRANCHISED, TOTAL DISINTEREST IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, AND AN UNHEALTHY PREOCCUPATION WITH CELEBRITY-MAGAZINE BULLSHIT.

after stepping out of the car at a grocery store near Brimley State Park, where my whimsical t-shirt prompted several minutes of conversation with a local gent about curling.

Driving through Canada, we'd always charted our course along the route of available provincial parks, based on my long-held assumption that the government will always take the nicest spots for itself. Pulling into a Michigan state campground, then, was a shocker—it was a vast, flat parking lot for motor homes, webbed with paved roads wider than the campsites and jammed mid-week with opulent land yachts, even though the park's main recreational attraction, a long strip of sandy beach, was closed owing to E.coli contamination. As the sun sank into the towering birches, we resigned ourselves like good Canadians to

most mundane topic was laced with enviro-bliviousness, contempt for the disenfranchised, total disinterest in the political process, and an unhealthy preoccupation with celebrity-magazine bullshit. It seemed as though we randomly dipped into America and scooped up a handful of the nation's negative international stereotypes. At one point, a beardless, chinless young park employee wandered through the site to ask them to pipe down and they ganged up on him with such insistent politeness that all he could do was accept the proffered basket of tortilla chips and spinach dip and recede back into the darkness.

It was then that we finally figured it all out and one glance at their license plates confirmed it: our gregarious, brazen American hosts were, in fact, Canadian.



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check out savage love on p. 42

size matters?
(savage love is 1258 words this week)



accurate?

I have a large clientele. They usually go to a reader because they (the reader) knew who they were and what they're going through and then told them what was going to happen. I've had people coming to see me for the last eight years. Sometimes once a month I've had people come back two years later and say 'oh my god you were right.' If you're no good you're done in this business.

Who uses your services?

I have everyone from bums to millionaires. You see people when they're divorcing, separating, have lost somebody, their life's falling apart and they don't know where to go. Sometimes I'm part counselor, part priest listening to confessions, part lawyer—sometimes people just come for entertainment, but not normally. Usually someone comes because they don't know where they're going, they're under stress and need to figure out some options.

What tools do you use on the job?

I do cards, palms, tea leaves, numerology, dream interpretation, crystal ball, stone readings I do just about everything. If you throw water on the table I'll read it. Each reader has their own added specialty. Some will do crystal balls, some will do stones its just different mediums.

Is skepticism a problem in your line of work?

I have a lot of skeptics, but when they come (once) they come back again.

What can a person do to ensure their reading is as accurate as possible?

First thing if you meet a reader and you automatically don't like the reader and you're not getting along, then just don't go for the reading. Stop it right there say 'I don't want to do the reading.' First of all if they can't tell you who you are and what you're going through there's no reason being there. They should be able to do that first before you sit and listen about your future.

Jackie Stewart | Fortune Teller
PHOTO BY JIMMY JEONG
Q&As WITH EDMONTONIANS BY ANDREW PAUL

15 minutes

How did you get into fortune telling?

I had been studying religions for 20 years and I was going to become a minister... I studied ones involving stones and crystals, different folklore, and mythology.

When you're doing a reading how important are tools like tea leaves and tarot cards?

To be honest most of it is about reading the person: you see things or feel things or

sense things from the person. Part of it is knowledge about the symbols and what they mean. Another part is having the ability that's usually gifted to you in the womb. Tea leaves are symbols that come in the cup. Symbols of stability and security, a symbol of coming travel.

Is there a particular tarot card that stands out to you?

No, but I've had a deck for a really long time

and they're easier to read. It's a visionary deck, each card has a picture on it, and for each person I will see something different for them.

When did you realize you had "the gift?"

I've been feeling and seeing things since I was a child.

Can you describe a bit of the reading

process?

I have to know you in five to ten minutes I have to read you while you're sitting there paying. If I don't know what I'm doing you won't be happy. Then it's like okay boom, this is going on, that's going on, you're going to deal with this, you're going to deal with that, this is how you're going to handle it, this is what you'll have to watch out for.

How do you know that your readings are

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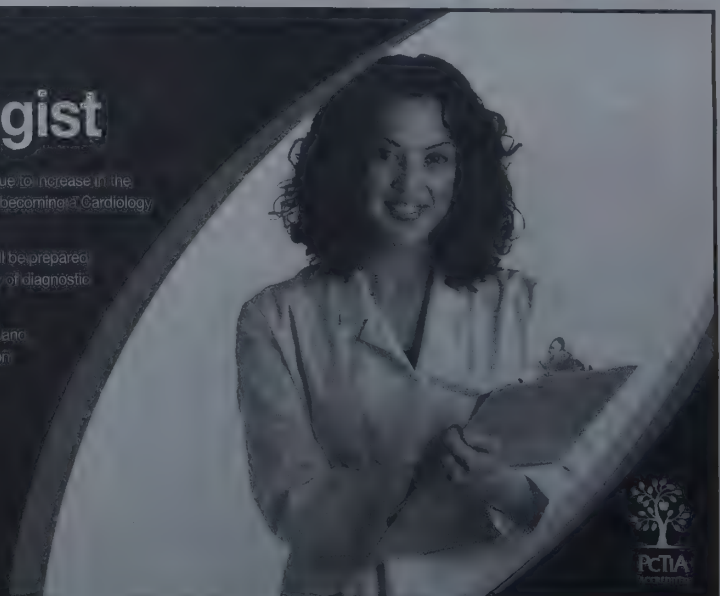
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- 8 Crazy Bitch, Buckcherry
- 9 Shake It, Metro Station
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DINING • ITALIAN • BY SCOTT LINGLEY | 773 words

Puttanesca Or Pizza: Who Can Decide?



Put Your Head in Il Forno | It just sounds so much more romantic in Italian... PHOTO BY IMMY YEONG

AT IL FORNO, I WAS TORN BETWEEN CRISPY PIZZA AND THE PASTA MADE FAMOUS BY THE WHORES OF NAPOLI

IL FORNO RISTORANTE
14891 Stony Plain Road, 455-0443

Leave it to me to completely miss the point of Il Forno, the comfy Italian eatery at Jasper Gate, Edmonton's most central big box strip mall. "Il forno" means "the oven" and only after we ordered did I notice that almost every other table on this bustling Thursday night had at least one pizza on it. I then noticed a woman in white kitchen togs tending the brick-lined, crescent-shaped opening in the wall into which she slid pie after pie, crisping the thin crust instantly on the bottom and bubbling the dough with pockets of steam. Man, I love a good pizza...

Too late! We were having one of the specials, broiled snapper with avocado cream (\$22) and a bowl of spaghetti puttanesca (\$17) — I seem to have a twisted obsession with trying puttanesca whenever I see it on a menu — preceded by the insalata mista (\$8).

As I say, practically every table in Il Forno's adobe-and-gold confines was

full, a few with big groups passing large platters of salad and sampling a vintage or two from the wine list. A real flesh-and-blood harpist plinked out Céline Dion and showtunes from his low perch by the entrance and black-clad servers traversed the dining room with the same specials board like they were shuttling a sole giant novelty cheque between tables. The tablecloths were, of course, checkered and bedecked with baskets of crusty rolls, the bane of the famished diner who ends up scarfing half a gutful of white bread and butter waiting for a starchy entrée. Better to just stick to the Chilean cabernet (\$7) the server suggested, since they were out of malbec.

For lovers of the basic Italian salad, the insalata mista was the perfect way to start the meal, a vibrant, savoury mouth-freshener made of crisp mixed greens, tomato wedges, red onions, and feta in the ideal amount of tangy vinaigrette, suitably portioned for two to split (though, to be honest, I could have easily eaten my co-diner's half).

After the salad, there was kind of a lull in the pace of the meal. I'll happily admit that good food takes time — and Il Forno's food probably never falls below the level of good — and

that this was a pretty busy night for the restaurant, but it could have been half an hour between courses. So much for holding off on the crusty rolls and butter.

When the food did arrive, it certainly looked great. My co-diner beamed down on two fillets of snapper, densely moist, flecked with pepper and dolloped with rich purée of avocado. She also had some tender, crisp vegetables and a cloud of buttery mashed potatoes to look forward to.

Puttanesca, as we all know, comes to us from the legendary sex workers of old Napoli, who allegedly shored themselves up between customers with pasta tossed with a rustic but intense combination of extra virgin olive oil, garlic, tomatoes, anchovies, capers, and black olives. Perhaps you remember the slogan of that ad campaign aiming to popularize the dish in North America: "Puttanesca — it's not just for whores anymore." Or maybe I dreamed that.

Anyway, puttanesca is one of those dishes that can be a real synesthetic experience, where the components are so transcendently melded that the aroma, taste, mouthfeel, and finish become a pleasurable sensory smear that lingers in prickles of cap-

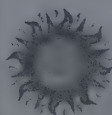
sicum heat in the sinuses and on the tongue, and as a sheen of perspiration under the eyes. Il Forno's puttanesca was marvelously unified in its marriage of sweet, smooth olive oil, salty, concentrated anchovy, and distinctive explosions of olive and caper undertone of garlic throughout, but I could have gone for a touch more cayenne or crushed chilis to enliven the richness. Shaking on the chilis afterward didn't quite get me the same effect. The spaghetti itself was fresh and precisely al dente.

There was nothing at all missing from the snapper, a fish I hate cooking at home for the post-tidal reek it confers upon the place in which it's prepared. No such odour attached itself to Il Forno's snapper, the light flavour borne on a creamy skiff of whipped avocado. The buttery, garlic-infused cauliflower and broccoli gave some tender-crisp variety to the meal, and the velvety, buttery potatoes fit right in on the plate.

An enjoyable meal, to be sure, but being the kind of guy who always wants what he doesn't have, I can't help thinking back to how good everyone else's pizza looked.

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myLook

Jeremy D. Taitlinger | Lawyer
BY ANDREW PAUL

My Look: You can't handle the truth!

Hair: My wife cuts my hair.

Wearing: My shoes and belt are from Aldo. The belt was a gift from my wife, and the shoes were about \$90. My tie was also a gift so I'm not sure where it came from, but it's Jones New York. The shirt is from Winners, and I actually picked up this Joseph Abboud suit when I was vacationing in Seattle last year.

Into: I golf, read, and love to camp and spend time with my wife and two children.

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20TH ANNUAL T.A.L.E.S. STORYTELLING FESTIVAL FORT EDMONTON PARK, AUG. 31, 4 P.M. AND SEP. 1, 4-5 P.M. Storytelling available to the public with Fort Edmonton Park admission. For those interested in taking in the workshops, registration is \$25 to \$45. For info visit www.eat.ca/tales.
AN INTRODUCTION TO LIVING WITH LOSS LOS HOLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, STRATHCONA PLACE SENIORS, SEP 3-10, 6:30 P.M. A presentation on grieving and supporting those who grieve. To register call 780-454-1231 ext. 224.
OIL ON WATER STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY THEATRE, AUG. 30, 7 P.M. Screening of the film with a discussion to follow. Admission by donation.
OH SNAP! OPEN STUDIO SATURDAYS SNAP GALLERY, AUG. 30, 12-5 P.M. In preparation for the 2008 Love Those Clothes You Wear! fundraising gala. Costs \$5 and a donation for the auction.
POPULAR PRINT CULTURES' CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL HUMANITIES CENTRE U OF A, AUG. 27-30 International and local speakers, authors, scholars and artists are come to Edmonton to celebrate everything "pop." Free admission. For info visit www.valberta.ca/popprint.
TRINA ROBBINS HAPPY HARBOR COMICS VOL. 1, AUG. 28, 7 P.M. III presentation by underground feminist comic legend.

MEETINGS

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CREATING A LOCAL LIVING ECONOMY IN EDMONTON THE VILLAGE LIFESTYLES, 10429-79 AVE., AUG 18, 7-9:30 P.M. Leslie Radley from Keep Edmonton Original will speak on the importance of local business to the economy and community where they operate. Admission by donation, for info call 780-435-5683.
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HIP MAMAS MEET-UP Young mothers and their babies meet several times a week. Free to join, plenty of friends to be made. Info: hipmamas.meetup.com/151/.

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 8 P.M. WOODY'S, 2ND FL., 11723 JASPER AVE. Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. Info: 780-387-3343 or groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton.illusions.
IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB 2ND AND 4TH THU EVERY MONTH, 8 P.M. SEP-MAY. PLEASANTVIEW COMMUNITY HALL, 10860 ST. AVE. Presentations, speakers, workshops, outings, monthly and year-end competitions. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Info: www.imagesab.com or Sheila, 780-469-9776; Murty, 780-452-6224.
INNOVATORS' NETWORKING CLUB WED, 11:30 AM-1 P.M. CAFE SELECT SOUTH, 109 ST. 84 AVE. Business networking group, mixer, and club membership drive. Info: Dwayne, 780-463-6240 or dwayne@bhakken.ca.
MKP MEKS GROUP EVERY MON, 7 P.M. Men's meeting and initiation. Info: www.mkp.org or Garrett, 780-452-5107.
NORATORS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 7-8:45 P.M. LONDONDERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY, LONDONDERRY MALL, 137 AVE. 66 ST. Learn to speak clearly and with confidence in a supportive group. Info: www.norators.com.
NORWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB THU, 8-10 P.M. 10425 KINGSWAY AVE. Improve public speaking and communications skills in a fun and educational environment. Info: 780-465-3934 or www.norwoodtoastmasters.org.
POWER SPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED 7-9 P.M. GRANT MACLEAN COLLEGE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, RM 437. Learn to speak with confidence in a supportive environment. Info: 780-732-0693 or www.powerspeakers.ca.
SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES Weekly drop-in meetings, providing resources and information on self-esteem, mental health, and employment. Men welcome to attend. Info: 780-496-5930.
TOURETTE SYNDROME SUPPORT 1ST WED EVERY MONTH (OCT-JUNE), 7 P.M. ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD, 8525 101 ST., NORTH DOR. Meeting for TS adults and parents of TS kids. Info: 1-866-824-9164.
UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 7-8:30 P.M. RM 601, NORQUEST COLLEGE, 10215 108 ST. Improve listening, speaking, and overall communication skills. Info: Roger 780-454-3720, Theresa 780-488-4098, or adamsk@telus.net.
WEST-END TOASTMASTER CLUB TUE, 6:45-9 P.M. JASPER PLACE LIBRARY, 9010 156 ST. Friendly environment of personal growth and mutual support. Info: 780-495-5424.
WOW-WIRED ON WORDS SUN, 11 AM-1:15 P.M. THREE BANANAS CAFE, CHURCHILL SQUARE. An eclectic creative writing group welcoming both professional and amateur writers. Suggested donation \$10. Monthly meetings. Info: bewell.2008@gmail.com.
YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH, 5 P.M. REMEDY CAFE, 8631 109 ST. For discussion topics and suggested readings go to www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=3559215104.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 11205 101 ST. A range of services for members of the Native community, low cost or free beds, housing and clothing referrals. Info: 780-479-1999.
CLUB LULU LULULEMON, 10544 82 AVE. Weekly activities to get you moving. Info: www.lululemon.com, 780-435-9363 or whyte-community@lululemon.com.
COMMUNITY WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE VARIOUS LOCATIONS 6-week course on dieting and active lifestyles. Info: Carla, 780-966-0185.
CONSTELLATION EVERY 1ST & 3RD WED, 7 P.M. 10431 37

AVE. A unique healing process, transforming past burdens into positive affirmations. Info: 780-961-9162 or constellationcurrents.ca.
FREE YOGA CLASS EVERY SUN, 6-7 P.M. LULULEMON ATHLETICA KINGSWAY All levels welcome, new styles each week, mats provided. Info: 780-471-1200 or kingswaygarden-community@lululemon.com.
GENTLE YOGA RADHA YOGA 9946 87 AVE. Weekly classes in small group settings. Sunday Satsang (by donation). Call for schedule and fees. Info: 780-432-3363 or www.radha.org.
LIVING POSITIVE TUE, 7-9 P.M. SUITE 50, 9912 106 ST. Confidential space where POZ people can discuss and share common issues of concern. A peer-driven AIDS service organization, providing direct support to people living with HIV in Alberta. Info: 780-488-5768 or edmlivingpositive.ca.
LOTUS SOUL GYM YOGA STUDIO 10518 82 AVE. Multidisciplinary yoga studio offering drop-in and registered classes in hatha, vinyasa flow, Pilates, yoga for runners, pre-natal, post-natal, mommy & me, and partner workshops. All levels welcome. Info: www.lotussoulgym.com, 780-434-9642 or info@lotussoulgym.com.
MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 A.M.-5 P.M. FACULTE SAINT-JEAN, 8406 91 ST. 3RD. An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. French, English and African languages. Admission fee for members, membership \$10. Info: 780-490-7332.
MEDITATION AND BUDDHIST TEACHINGS GADEN SAMTEN LING TIBETAN BUDDHIST MEDITATION SOCIETY, 11403 101 ST. Tibetan and Buddhist teachings by resident teacher, Tibetan Buddhist monk Kushok Lobzang Dhamche. Beginners Tue 7 p.m. Intermediate Wed 7 p.m. Advanced practices Sun 11 a.m. Info: 780-499-0014 or www.gadensamten.org.
MS ACTIVE NOW #150, 9405 50 ST. Recreation and physical wellness programs. Info: 780-471-3034.
RADHA YOGA VARIOUS LOCATIONS Classes include gentle hatha, hidden language/reflective hatha, dream yoga, kundalini/power all choice and meditation. Info: 780-432-3363, class dates at www.radha.org/edmonton.
RAJA YOGA MEDITATION 42RD, 10132 105 ST. In association with Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization. Info: www.bksoy.org or 780-425-1050.
RESTORATIVE YOGA MON-THU BY APPOINTMENT, 10355 105 ST. Learn restorative, vinyasa yoga, and pilates for individuals and small groups. Eight class card pass for \$64. Info: 780-478-3773.
RIVER VALLEY RUNNERS TUE & THU, 5:15-6:45 P.M. RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231 100 AVE. Coached training for running on Edmonton's extensive river valley trails, includes warm up and cooldown. Info: www.rivervalleyrunners.net or 780-447-1509.
TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY THU, 6:30-7:30 P.M. ALLENDALE COMMUNITY LEAGUE, 6330 105A ST. Weight loss support and information. First meeting is free. Info: TOPS4990@hotmail.com.
TRANQUILITY MEDITATION & BUDDHIST PRACTICE WED, 7 P.M. 10502 70 AVE. Tibetan kagyu tradition. Free, beginners welcome, instruction available. Info: Lama An Kunsang, resident teacher, 780-633-6157 or karmatashling.ca.
TRUE YOGA JUST OFF WHYTE AVE AND 101ST We are the first yoga studio in the city to be offering babysitting services for moms and dads so they can enjoy a quality yoga class while their little ones are cared for.

LEARNING

AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES 10275 JASPER AVE. Movements, the Afro-Caribbean dance ensemble, offers African dance classes and workshops at all levels. Info: 780-415-5271 or www.movementsdance.com.
BEDOUIN BEATS MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE 2ND FLOOR, 12316 JASPER AVE. For all skill levels. Info: 780-722-9773 or denise@raqabelladance.com.
DIGITAL PHOTO WORKSHOPS AT MACLEAN 10045 156 ST. CENTRE FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNICATION 780-497-4301 or www.artsoutreach.org.
DROP-IN ART FOR THE ARTIST AT HEART PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PERRON ST., ST. ALBERT. Info: Glenda, 780-460-4310 or ahglenda@telus.net.
EDMONTON WEAVERS' GUILD Classes on weaving, spinning and various workshops. Info: Sonja, 780-425-1152 or ewg@telusplanet.net.
EDMONTON WRITERS' CENTRE STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 87 CHURCHILL SQUARE. A creative space for writers of all genres and levels. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun 1-5 p.m. Info: 780-496-7070.
FASA WORKSHOPS The Film and Video Arts Society offers one-night workshops twice a month in a variety of media activities. Info: www.fasa.ca, 780-429-1671.
FLAMENCO LESSONS SUN & MON, 2:30-3:30 P.M. Judith and Oscar Jose Garcia teach both Flamenco dance & guitar. Info: 1-800-349-4843 or ojgarcia@telusplanet.net.
KARATE INSTRUCTION Classes for kids over 10, teens, and adults. Info: www.manatidown.com or 780-975-6010.
KITA NO TAIKO JAPANESE DRUMMING WORKSHOPS Schedules, info, and registration: www.kitanotai.co.ca or 780-431-0300.
MARS HILL CENTRE 88318-104 ST., 780-425-0202 Classes and workshops on the recovery process. Registration on a sliding scale, based on participant's income. Info: www.manthelibrary.com.
MEDIA MAG WORKSHOPS EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, #600, 9990 JASPER AVE. Several workshops in areas concerning media. Info: www.mediamag.ca or 780-695-5675.
NORTHERN RIVER KARATE SCHOOL TUE, THU & SAT, BELGRAVIA COMMUNITY HALL, 11540 73 AVE. Weekly classes in Karate, Kobudo, Yoga, Qi gong, and Sifting Meditation. Info: www.threetatles.com.
SALSA LESSONS WED & THU, LA KANTINA LATIN CLUB, 10805 105 AVE. Free salsa lessons every WED and THU. Info: 780-428-2665.

QUEER

AGAPE EDUCATION FACILITY, U OF A CAMPUS Focus group on sex and gender differences in education and culture. Pre-service and practicing teachers, community members welcome. Info: andre.grace@ualberta.ca or 780-492-0772.
EPS/LGBTQ LIAISON COMMITTEE The EPS/LGBTQ Liaison Committee is composed of a variety of concerned lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, queer, allied community members, and police officers. Email questions or concerns to eps@lgbtqyaho.ca. All inquiries treated with confidentiality and respect. To report a hate or bias motivated crime, contact the EPS Hate & Bias Crime Unit, 780-471-3489.
INSIDE/OUT U of A Campus-based organization for LGBTQ faculty, graduates, academic & staff. Straight allies welcome. Monthly meetings. Info: kwells@ualberta.ca or mworldham@ualberta.ca.
PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE, 780-488-3234. Hours:

TUE-FRI 1-10 p.m., SAT 12-6:30 p.m. Drop-in library, and community internet services are available. Online newsletter Hours: TUE-FRI 1-10 p.m., SAT 12-6:30 p.m. Info: 780-488-3234 or www.pridecentredm Edmonton.org.
TEAM EDMONTON A volunteer operated, non-profit society for members and friends of the GLBT community, offering well organized and fun sporting events and other recreational activities within a positive social framework. Info: www.teamedmonton.ca.
WOMENSPACE Non-profit lesbian organization for Edmonton and surrounding area. Organized monthly activities. Memberships available, including monthly newsletter. Confidentiality assured. Info: www.gaycanada.ca/WomenSpace, womenspace@telus.net, or 780-482-1794.
YOUTHSPACE PRIDE CENTRE OF EDMONTON, 9540-111 AVE. An after-school drop-in program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-identified, queer, questioning, and allied (GLBTQAA) youth under 25. Open TUE-SAT 3-7 p.m. Info: brendan@pridecentredm Edmonton.org or 780-488-3234.

THURSDAY

BI-SEXUAL WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 7:30 P.M. A social group for bi-curious and bi-sexual women. Info: groups.yahoo.com/group/biweekdm.
FREE TO BE INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL 8-10 P.M. 101 AMXIKWAY ACADEMY, volleyball@teamedmonton.ca.
GAYWIKIE 6 P.M. CJSR 88.5 FM Edmonton's only radio show concerning gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives. News, local and international features, and community events.
LGBT SENIORS DROP IN 1:30-3:30 P.M. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540 111 AVE. Social meeting for seniors of all genders. Info: Jeff, 780-488-3234.
SEXUAL COMMUNITY CLUB 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 8 P.M. 80075, 10242 106 ST. Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. Info: 780-387-3343 or groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton.illusions.

FRIDAY


YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT 6 P.M. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540 111 AVE.
SATURDAY
NORTHERN TITANS GLBT BOWLING LEAGUE 7 P.M. GATEWAY LANES & RECREATION CENTRE, #100, 3414 GATEWAY BLVD. \$15 per person. Info: bowling@teamedmonton.ca.
SINGLE LESBIANS OVER 40 Women's social group, monthly gatherings for conversation over tea and coffee. Info: singlleswomen40plus@hotmail.com.
YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH 7-9 P.M. PRIDE CENTRE, 9540 111 AVE. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, straight and questioning youth (up to 25) gather to have fun and learn in a safe, supportive environment. Info: yuy@shaw.ca.

SUNDAY

ARCTIC FRONT RUNNERS 10 A.M. Runners of all levels of ability welcome. Runs are typically 6-8 km, usually 44-60 minutes. Coffee afterwards. Info: on venues and other runs during the week teamedmonton.ca, or 780-436-7892.
BALLROOM DANCING 7:30-8:30 P.M. All gender combinations welcome. Salsa, tumbler, waltz, live. Info: 780-469-3281 or ballroom@teamedmonton.ca.
EDMONTON PRIME TIMES (EPT) 2ND SUN MOST MONTHS, 2:30 P.M. UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 10804 119 ST. Older gay men and admirers meet for a social period, short business meeting, followed by guest speaker, discussion panel, or potluck supper. Special interest groups meet for other activities throughout the month. EPT is affiliated with Prime Times World Wide. Info: edmonton@pti yahoo.ca or www.primetimesww.org/edmonton.

yoga loft

Meditation Retreat: September 12, 13, 14



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9915 - 108A Ave. NW

WEST END

100 10429 178th St
9935 170th St
10620 178th St
17508 Stony Plain Rd

NORTH

5 - 14220 Yellowhead Trail
14903 118th Ave
9524 165th Ave
12714 137th Ave
13034 50th St

SOUTH

10309 34th Ave
4909 99th St
4515 Gateway Blvd
5626 99th St. NW
5912 104th St

Fort Saskatchewan

9542 88th Ave
9914 103rd St

Leduc

68 5904 50th St
5205 50th Ave
7 6109 45th St

Sherwood Park

Sherwood Park Mall
973 Ordre Rd.
162 (Roadking)
26 Strathmore Dr

Spruce Grove

116 Westland Market Mall
30 - 96 Campsie Rd.

St. Albert

St. Albert Centre
30 - 200 St. Albert Rd.
20 Muir Dr.

Stony Plain

10182 Boulder Blvd

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YOU COULD, PERHAPS, CHALK ALL THIS BAD BEHAVIOUR UP TO AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX, A LACK OF MEDIA TRAINING, OR **JUST PLAIN OLD BRITISH SNOOTINESS.**

MUSIC ROUNDUP • **BANDS OF BROTHERS** • BY MICHAEL HINGSTON | gml words

Oi, Brother! Why Art Thou Such A Jerk?

IN HONOUR OF THE BATTLING BROTHERS GALLAGHER, SEE LOOKS AT MUSICAL SIBS, FROM HANSON TO JACKSON

OASIS

w/ Ryan Adams and The Cardinals. Aug. 29, Rexall Place. Tickets: \$49.50-\$69.50, available through Ticketmaster (416-8000/ticketmaster.ca)

Lots of successful rock musicians are arrogant, but few are as notoriously so as Liam and Noel Gallagher, the sibling frontmen of British rock giants Oasis. When Blur's "Country House" famously outsold their own single "Roll With It" in 1995, Noel was so outraged that he told *The Observer* he hoped Blur singer Damon Albarn would "catch AIDS and die." They've since trash-talked virtually all of their contemporaries, while remaining — how to put this? — less than modest about their own talents. The title of *Rolling Stone's* 1996 cover story on the band sums things up nicely: "Ruling Asses: Oasis Have Conquered America. And Now They Won't Shut Up About It."

You could, perhaps, chalk this behaviour up to an inferiority complex, a lack of media training, or just plain old British snootiness. We here at *SEE*, on the other hand, think it's got a lot to do with the simple fact that Liam and Noel are brothers.

Siblings, as we all know, egg each other on. They can make each other either cripplingly self-conscious or brazenly overconfident — and most musicians are already both of those things to begin with. So in honour of modern rock's most outspoken brothers' concert at Rexall this Friday, we take a look at some other famous siblings in music history and try to figure out whether music really ought to be a family affair.

(Note: this list only considers actual brothers, and not fakers of the Dust, Chemical, Doobie, Righteous, and Blues varieties.)

The Jackson 5

Siblings: Jackie (vocals), Tito (guitar, vocals), Jermaine (bass, vocals), Marlon (vocals), Michael Jackson (lead vocals)

While not the first family-turned-supergroup, The Jackson 5 took the model to astronomical new heights with their brand of upbeat funk-pop in the early 1970s. They were the first artists ever to have their first four singles all hit No. 1, and their earnest, clean-cut image led to an avalanche of merchandising, including a short-lived cartoon on ABC. Since then, however, the brothers have faded away to various degrees of obscurity — except for Michael, who, well, you know.

Lynyrd Skynyrd

Siblings: Ronnie and Johnny Van Zant (both vocals)

This is a bit of a strange one: in late 1977, Lynyrd Skynyrd's private plane crashed in a Mississippi forest and killed six people, including founding member Ronnie Van Zant. Then the band went on official hiatus, only to reform a decade later with younger brother Johnny taking over for Ronnie as lead vocalist and songwriter — hoping, we guess, to tap into some imaginary Van Zant family talent spring. (Bonus sibling connection: the other two band members killed in the plane crash were guitarist Steve Gaines and his sister, backup vocalist Cassie. Creepy, huh?)

Van Halen

Siblings: Alex (drums) and Eddie Van Halen (guitar)



And All The Fights That Led Them Here Are Blinding | The Gallagher brothers' unpredictable spazzouts have become just as well-known as their chart-topping "Wonderwall." PHOTO SUPPLIED

In many ways the definitive arena rock band of the '70s and '80s, Van Halen was founded by brothers Alex and Eddie, who each started out playing the other's instruments as teenagers. Controversy has surrounded the band for decades — mostly to do with their revolving line-up of lead singers and questionable comeback tours — but the eponymous brothers have been mainstays throughout, keeping the family name (somewhat) intact.

The Jesus and Mary Chain

Siblings: Jim and William Reid (both guitars, vocals)

These Scottish noise-rockers quickly caught the music press' ear in 1984 with super-short, distortion-drenched sets that tended to culminate in smashed instruments and audience riots. The Reids only had one idea (combining bubblegum pop melodies with as much static guitar squawking as possible), but they played it to near-perfection for over a decade. And, in a sign of true brotherly love, they reunited at Coachella last year and are now working on new material.

Hanson

Siblings: Isaac (guitar, vocals), Taylor (lead vocals, keyboards), and Zac Hanson (drums, vocals)

This Oklahoma-bred trio is the modern-day successor of The Jackson 5 in more ways than one: the Hansons were radio-friendly and ultra-harmless, and they too momentarily obliterated the "grown-up," dominated pop charts. "MMMBop," with its nonsense chorus and three-part brotherly harmonies, was incapable in 1997, although the band never came close to replicating the single's success. The Hansons have since decided (read: were forced) to go independent, where they are still apparently making records to this day. In fact, they even have an Edmonton date booked on Sept. 13 at the Edmonton Event Centre. Any bets on Taylor's current ability to hit those adolescent squeals of his youth? Anyone?

Radiohead

Siblings: Jonny (guitar) and Colin Greenwood (bass)

Rather than as a pair of eccentric

musical virtuosos, the Greenwoods are better known as the unassuming guys who stand behind singer Thom Yorke and create lush, robotic soundscapes for him to yelp over. Jonny and Colin are real talents, to be sure, but whatever sibling rivalry they once had has now given way to a calm, cucumber-cool stoicism — or maybe they've simply directed their brotherly energies to keeping Thom's manic songwriting ideas in check.

Clipse

Siblings: Malice and Pusha-T (rappers)

In terms of modern street hip-hop brothers Malice and Pusha-T are the absolute top of the grimy heap. Their fraternal bond is as much based around selling cocaine (and then rapping about it) as it is genetics, but either way, they seem inseparable. Then again, Malice did once write this line: "This the same game got my brother strung out / So I count the ways that it fucked up his life / So I don't have a problem with upping my price." Yikes.



Falling Off The Wagon | Lagwagon will roll into the Dinwoodie Lounge Aug. 29 for one more pre-semester ripper. PHOTO SUPPLIED

HOT TICKETS • MUST-SEE SHOWS

NICE VANS!

Lagwagon
Dinwoodie Lounge • Aug. 29
\$24 | Ticketmaster.ca

The band's namesake is a beat-up old van that the boys used to tour around in. Apparently it was a fat wreck, unlike the 10 albums they've released through the Fat Wreck Chords label (hmm). A shot of the old tou-mobile is featured on the cover of their album *Trashed*. The band took a hiatus in 2000, but they've regrouped and will be bringing yet another "Feedbag of Truckstop Poetry" to dump in the musical trough for all the punk-rock kiddies to lap up. Yum... tasty.

GREAT SCOTS!

The Real McKenzies
New City • Sep. 4
\$16 | Megatunes, New City

Imagine Sid Vicious and Scottish poet Robbie Burns had seven love children (all boys). Okay, fine, that's impossible. But if it were you'd end up with The Real McKenzies. Any band that forms for the sole purpose of maintaining a perpetual state of "Ceilidh" — that's Gaelic for "wicked party" — since '94, is going to put on a wild show. Aside from a massive coronary and/or liver failure there's no reason why their E-town stop would be anything but raucous.

CRAZY GYPSIES!

The Johnsons
The Pawn Shop • Aug. 30
\$5 | Free before 10:30 p.m.

No body likes a quitter, so come throw tomatoes at Nate as he plays his last show with Edmonton's dirtiest punk-rock Gypsy scum. The Johnsons have been shredding the gnarl since '86 and have earned their moniker "Gypsies for Life" with more than 600 shows (including a Japanese tour) under their belts. If you don't like the show then maybe you'll still be a fan of Dan's delicious culinary stylings at Tasty Toms on Whyte. It's the perfect hangover food.

CD RELEASE • LOCAL PUNKS • BY SCOTT LINGLEY | 989 words

Making A Realistic Living

THE CITY STREETS STARTED OUT AS KIDS WITH BIG DREAMS; THREE YEARS LATER, THEY'RE OLD HANDS ON THE INDIE-ROCK SCENE

THE CITY STREETS CD RELEASE

W/ Secret Fires, Plus Perfect, What's Wrong Toile? Aug. 29.
The Artery (9535 Jasper Ave)

Here in the City of Champions, there's a tendency for legend to overshadow reality — and that's as true in our music scene as the pennant-clogged rafters of our major-league sports emporia. Those legends persist through anecdotes, usually tales of colossal excess, onstage meltdowns, and career-best performances — in that order of frequency.

Edmonton's The City Streets, after only three years spent toiling under that norm de guerre, have accumulated their fair share of legendary escapades, SEE's own Tom Murray, in an antic-laden recounting of the band's recent tour with Eamon McGrath and The Wild Dogs, was moved to describe the trio as "shit disturbers" and "fuck-ups par excellence."

Here's another legend to put in your pipe: February before last I was standing in the middle of a sweaty crowd of friends and well-wishers at one of the City Streets' frequent tour kickoff parties. The dinky PA employed by the Locker Room Pub made the band sound like they were being amplified through a pair of blowdryers, more or less smothering the vocals in a low-lying smog of speaker hiss. But it barely mattered because the people around me were singing along so loudly with songs from *These Things Happen*, the full-length album The City Streets pounded out just three months into their existence, that I could make out every word.

The fact that the follow-up to *These Things Happen* was recorded a year ago and is finally seeing the light of day this Friday doesn't exactly dispel the image conjured by a band that self-applies the adjective "hard-drinking." Guitarist/vocalist Rick Reid might well be giving an explanation when he sings, "The devil is shining God's shoes / Words on a napkin: 'Rick, lay off the booze.' / But it's so fine, so fine, so fine..."

Over the phone, Reid invokes the name of the forthcoming album in accounting for its lengthy gestation and other matters related to the City Streets' burgeoning legend.

"It's called *Concentrated Living*," Reid says. "Since we started touring for the first album and really taking the band seriously — not, like, taking ourselves seriously, but playing as much as we can — our lives have been pretty intense in the band and personally. It gets pretty crazy trying to juggle everything."



Wait! Is That A Mastodon In The Background? | Nope, just some wallpaper. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Many, many hours of The City Streets' concentrated living took place away from home, as the band criss-crossed the continent and decamped to Vancouver to record with producer Jesse Gander at the Hive Studios, facility of choice for bands like Black Mountain and Ladyhawk. Reid says honing their songs and musicianship on a different stage every night distinguishes the resulting album from their debut. The wistful lyrical outlook, on the other hand, that just came from getting older.

"All those songs were written in a period of being in our early twenties, not being a teenager anymore and having to come to terms with that," Reid says. "When I was a teenager, my older friends used to say that once you get into your twenties, things get a little darker, you're more aware of mortality, and your youth is slipping away slowly, so those kinds of things are on the album. I think it's a positive album, but with a harsh realism I didn't have when I was writing songs three years ago."

For fans accustomed to hearing the band's sound molested by a shit-ass sound system, *Concentrated Living* brings out even more of their folk and country leanings, as well as a grounding in what Reid calls "the big gun songwriters" — influences that are as obvious in the Springsteen-esque cadences of "Yer Ghost," as when they borrow a line from Bob Dylan on "Mastodon," then name-check the album it came from in the chorus.

"I listen to a lot of new music, but I don't know if it influences me as much," Reid says. "It's not that I don't think there's a lot of great new music — I love Radiohead and Modest Mouse, but I don't think we sound anything like those guys. There's something about Paul Westerberg or Hüsker Dü or Dylan for The Clash — that stuff seeped into me more emotionally."

Nor do the band's influences taper off at roaring guitar rock and song-writing icons.

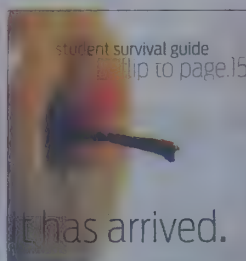
"Lately I've been into The National and Sigur Rós. Nina Simone, '50s jazz like Mingus, Hank Williams — we all bring our own stuff. I think that's what makes our music the way it is. We don't try to be eclectic like Beck or Ween — we're a rock band — but we try to let everything in."

Some of the songs on *Concentrated Living* also bear the influence of reality in the realization that no one gets rich playing hard-charging, witty indie rock in Canada. The contentious relationship between the desire to create and the obligation to earn a living crops up lyrically, as on the anti-drugery screed "Work" or when Reid sings, "We don't need religion, we need to live our lives / We need our own God, one that comes from the inside / And to quit our jobs or work two days a week / Why is the weekend the only time we're free?"

"I work whatever job I can get in town," Reid says. "It's hard to keep a job when you keep asking for a month off. Matt's a psych aide at Alberta Hospital and Mark drives in a propane truck all day, which he likes. My dream would be to be able to play music full time, and just make records that are good and keep getting better and to keep getting music out to more people. You gotta think of it as an adventure or in romantic terms for it to be sane or decent."

Whatever other parts of the legend might be true, Reid sounds clear-headed on the prospects of *Concentrated Living* significantly changing the band's current circumstances. He doesn't dream of a major-label deal in the offing, but counts on the hard work they've done touring and the inroads their first record made at college radio. And many more months of concentrated living ahead.

"Realistically, it's just us," Reid says. "We'll tour with the album. I don't have my hopes pinned on some kind of fame or anything. I hope we can get heard by as many people as we can within our means."



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 RECORDING DAYS**

Acclaimed guitarist Gaye Delorme is a much-loved artist in these parts — he lived in Edmonton in the '80s, and produced hit albums for several Albertan songwriters like k.d. lang and Jann Arden. But outside Alberta, he's famous as the writer and guitarist for much of the musical material performed by '70s stoner-comedy duo Cheech and Chong (who, incidentally, just announced a reunion tour of Canada this fall).

When I asked Delorme for a Cheech and Chong story, he gave me this:

"I had written this piece of music in '74, it was kinda like this rock parody thing. I played it for Cheech, and he loved it right away and started



Oh Delorme! | You may not know his face, but you'll remember his tunes from his comedy days with Cheech & Chong. SUPPLIED

writing lyrics, and so we arranged to go record it at A&M Records in L.A. I got to the studio with Cheech and we sat in a little room by ourselves and wrote out the 'People talkin' to me tryin' to tell me how to live, I don't listen to it 'cause my head is like a

sieve —"

(Insert my giggling here.)

Delorme continues, uninhibited: "We wrote the song and arranged to record it that night. I tried to get a big rock drummer but I couldn't, so we ended up getting this Brazilian guy

that I was working with out of New York named Aírto Moreira. I don't know how to spell that, but he's a famous percussionist." Luckily, I have Google for spellchecking purposes.

"I'd arranged to get a bass player through a friend of mine. We set up with the engineer, put in all the plug-ins, and we were ready to go, and Tommy [Chong] brought in his guitar case, and he was going to play along.

"But," giggles Delorme, "Tommy got everybody stoned. Not me! But he got the bass player stoned. In fact, I don't think the bass player to this day knows what session that was. And finally, when Tommy went to open up his guitar case to play guitar, there was no guitar in it."

"Oh!" I say. "I guess that relegates the sound to 'air guitar.'"

"Yes, it does," Delorme says. (The finished track features only Delorme's guitar and none of Chong's, which may have been an unintended stroke of genius.) "After the session, the boys were so stoned they didn't say anything to each other at all; they just left. The tune was called 'Earache My Eye,' and what happened is Tommy and Cheech went back in and rewrote the lyrics, and I put a couple of lyric lines in it, and it got released

right away to radio, and become the #4 record in North America."

"Wow," I say.

"But I never saw the bass player again," Delorme says. "He was an R&B player, and I don't think he even knew his name when he left the studio because Tommy got him so stoned. I can imagine that guy's walking around somewhere in L.A. and hearing this song and going, 'Jeez, there's something familiar about that tune ... What is it about that song?'"

"But of course you weren't stoned," I say.

"No, I don't smoke dope," Delorme says matter-of-factly. "Never did."

"Not even once, not even like Bill Clinton?"

"I tried it but I didn't inhale ... Well, maybe back in the '60s. But smoking dope never worked for me."

"You're funny enough sober," I say, and I mean it — I recently spent some time in Vancouver hanging out with Delorme, and he is definitely one helluva natural-born comedian. And, for the record, neither of us was stoned.

A mere \$20 allows you to catch Delorme's wit and killer guitar in action this Saturday, Aug. 30 at the Haven Social Club.

MUSIC PREVIEW • OUTDOOR SONATA • BY PROSPER PRODANUK | 432 words

Tse And Symphony

**THE ESO DEBUTS THE WORK
 OF A YOUNG COMPOSER EACH
 YEAR AT SYMPHONY UNDER
 THE SKY — NOW IT'S ROYDON
 TSE'S TURN**

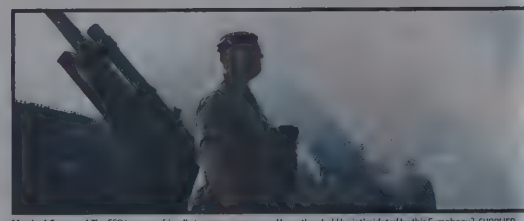
SYMPHONY UNDER THE SKY

Aug. 29-Sep. 1. Ticket and lineup info: www.edmontonsymphony.com.

Even with actual cannons blasting the closing afternoon performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture at the ESO's annual Symphony Under the Sky festival, the piece that has composer John Estacio most excited was written much more recently.

"It's a lovely 'city in the evening' piece," Estacio remarks. "He was very interested in Stravinsky and 'The Rite of Spring.' He was also discovering Ravel and Debussy, so he was quite excited with that. That fed him as he worked on the piece."

"He" is young Roydon Tse, a local high school student selected by Estacio and the ESO, and "the piece" is the work Tse created under Estacio's tutelage to premiere at the festival. Almost 15 years ago, Estacio started up the annual tradition of selecting a high school student to present a new work at the annual celebration of the symphony. Initially, the program en-



Musical Canons | The ESO is ever so friendly to young composers. Honestly, who'd be intimidated by this Symphony? SUPPLIED

tailed Grade 5 and 6 students offering themes for older students to expand on, but now the program involves mainly high school students.

"When I was younger, I was hungry for this type of opportunity," Estacio says. "In the summertime, when I was in high school, some friends and I would make 20-minute to half-hour 8mm movies, and I'd end up scoring the film. I wrote a little violin sonata too, and a piece for the band for our high school graduation."

Seeing this energy in Tse and other kids who've been involved in the program, Estacio's gotten used to composing with youth. "One thing that I learned very early on," he says, "was to never underestimate young musicians. They have the drive and can be just as professionally minded as adults. Each student has been slightly different. Initially, we see what point

they're at in their development and build on those strengths. Kids just go with it. They're not daunted thinking whether somebody likes it or not. They want to do it all ... and learn."

"Roy is quite advanced in his development," he continues. "He's well versed in music theory, familiar with orchestra sounds, and has a very good ear. He's got a very good, clean melodic sense and knew what harmonies to use when."

And most importantly, Tse is compelled to compose. "Roydon is a very motivated young man," Estacio says. "He's doing his Grade 10 piano, then he has all of his school subjects, and he plays sports as well. But with all of this, he still created the work quite quickly because you've got to want to do this."

"It's what gets me out of bed in the morning."

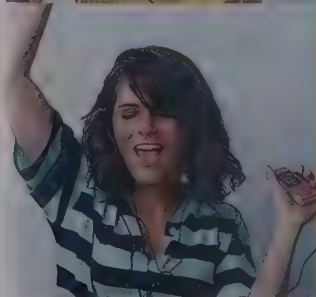
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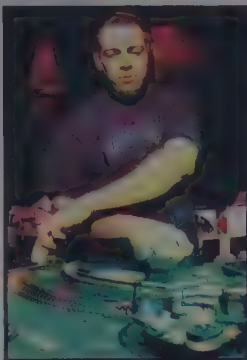
DJ Deployed

THE MASH-UP MAN TELLS TALES OF ENTERTAINING TROOPS IN IRAQ, PLAYING WEDDINGS, AND DODGING DANGEROUS MARINES

Z-TRIP

w/ Degree, Agent Orange, All Out DJs, Aug. 30 (9pm), Starlite Room (10030-102 St.). Tickets: \$25, available at Ticketmaster, Footh, FS, Soular, Blackbyrd.

Even though house and techno can also trace their origins back to the U.S., mash-up is arguably the quintessential American dance style. Musically, it's the ultimate melting pot — a winning mélange of rock, hip hop, funk, punk, and come what may — and sitting atop the mash-up heap is Zach Sciacca, otherwise known as DJ Z-Trip. Sciacca was cutting, layering, and scratching records long before mash-up became the dance scene's latest infatuation, a fact that has seen him dubbed the sound's "Godfather" and earning him recognition as one of the 100 greatest artists of all time by *Rolling Stone*. He insists, however, that he isn't Captain



Godfather Of Mash | The Monster Mash. We could go on for days with 'mash' references... PHOTO SUPPLIED

America by any stretch.

He's been grappling with his sense of patriotism ever since he returned from Kuwait earlier this year where he performed as part of Operation MySpace alongside acts like Jessica Simpson, Disturbed, and The Pussycat Dolls. While Sciacca says he was glad to entertain U.S. troops readying for deployment into Iraq, he ad-

mits that the experience still haunts him a little.

"In a way, I almost feel like I somehow served my country and did my part," he says, "but I'm not sure I would go back right away. I don't support this war and never did. But Chuck D from Public Enemy actually reminded me that James Brown went to Vietnam to entertain the troops. That helped me make my decision to go. Still, in some ways, I felt like the odd man out there. I'd be trying to rock the party, because that's what I do, but really I was just trying to take their minds off what they're about to go into — and there isn't much to celebrate over there."

Even American holy days like the last Fourth of July had an ugly bent for Sciacca after a run-in during a gig in Colorado. Sciacca dropped in "Killing in the Name" by Rage Against the Machine, a staple of his sets, while inviting the crowd to raise their middle fingers in salute to George W. Bush, the Worst U.S. President Ever. The showy move resulted in Sciacca getting a drink thrown at him — by a

Marine, no less.

"It went all over my shit — and this guy had just been partying along with me in the VIP area a few songs prior to that," Sciacca says. "The song ended and the guy walked up to me calling me a pussy. I got on the mic again and basically said, 'Look, man. Are you really going to try and tell me that George Bush isn't the worst president in U.S. history? Fuck him, fuck Condoleezza Rice, fuck Cheney, and fuck all the people who put all of us in the worst position imaginable. But isn't it great that we live in a country where people like you defend the right of people like me to say stuff like that on the microphone?'"

Sciacca never got a response, much less an apologetic handshake. The experience have made him realize just how much is riding on the upcoming U.S. presidential election. An unabashed Barack Obama supporter, Sciacca says if the Democrats don't pull through this time, he'll be working doubly hard to convince his wife to move to Vancouver. He's also

an unabashed fan of Canada, Canadians, our healthcare system, and our seemingly permissive attitudes towards marijuana. "I really love Canada," he once wrote on his website (www.djztrip.com). "For the record, whenever possible, I'm always down to go to Canada."

Not that there aren't some happy times stateside. When I caught up with him, Sciacca was in San Francisco's Bay area to attend the wedding of his buddy DJ Golden Child and the occasion brought to mind a time when wedding gigs were Z-Trip's bread and butter. Sciacca's popularity is such nowadays that he's glad to have priced himself out of that world. Still, I can't resist asking him whether he'd prefer playing for troops in the Middle East or dropping "The Bird Dance" for the middle-aged.

"Oh, God," he laughs. "I'd rather call in sick. If my life means that I am playing a wedding one day and Kuwait the next, then I need a fucking break, man."

Star-Spangled Blair



WILDLIFE FISH GRIWKOWSKY
THE SCENE LOST ONE OF ITS FAVOURITE PRACTICAL JOKERS LAST WEEK, AND FISH REMEMBERS SOME OF THE TIMES HE GOT SUCKERED IN

As last week's deadline approached, we'd already heard that Blair William Piggott was the latest WEM gun-range fatality. That, indeed, the famous local stunt-musician was the man who'd ducked under the shooting counter into the active target zone, thus effectively ending his life — regardless of exactly "how." When you shoot there, armed staff make it very clear what can happen if you do anything unexpected. As soon as Blair unpredictably crossed that line into the target zone, it didn't matter who pulled the trigger — this was his final stunt. Not so much, as the *Journal* insisted, an "accident" — unless that's what you also call the Gulf War.

In the community, though, the reaction was more along the lines of "He would totally do something like this, but did he actually?" And there-in was exactly what I loved most



Who's Joking Now? | Local musician and stuntman extraordinaire Blair William Piggott died on August 17. He was 29. PHOTO BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

about this strange and intense rock and roll trooper, forever obsessed with the timid-upsetting antics of *Jackass* and Mötley Crüe. Chaos.

Blair's curious humour — the central bank currency with which he tried to interact with others — was annoying, dangerous, inappropriate, and most of the time, to my mind, completely hilarious. On a vague suggestion that he should meet us in Las Vegas one New Year's, Blair showed up at our hotel room door wearing only a terrifying thong and a bowtie. He asked cartoonist Mike Winters to come to his adjacent room to see his new art, then showed him a stickman he'd drawn on his penis. Mike came back wearing a sad Garfield face and we fell over laughing.

Soon after the trip, Piggott warned me — insincerely, I felt — to stop at-

tacking George W. Bush in print or there'd be repercussions. Sho'nuff, he barged into my house at 4 a.m., dressed in an American flag outfit singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." I grabbed him by the neck and pushed him out the door, then sat down at this computer to write him a long "fuck you," but started laughing my head off too two sentences in. It was just too funny.

His unique mind smashed around inside the only person I could quickly forgive for tricking me into thinking I might even have syphilis, demanding an immediate, excruciating horse-needle-in-ass-cheeks cure. I wasn't about to let the madness of King George flow through my veins for a week awaiting test results. I was stunned when, weeks later, he asked if the STD clinic had rung up after

he'd named me as a sexual partner. I lied, bug-eyed, and said no. But holy fuck, to this day I still laugh about the best practical joke. Think about the requirements to play it, its elaborate construction. He'd scored yet again, though my girl felt otherwise.

Fucking guy even made those limp zombies in *Metallica* roar when he gave his local band exactly the same name: *Metallica*. Their famous lawyers issued him a stern warning, but the story was picked up across the world. It's obvious who won that fight. The guy who played entire songs with a flaming chef's hat. Who jammed on the street outside the gay porn store. Who was kicked out of SUB for a guerrilla show during finals. Who loved getting in the newspapers so much, encouraging me and Sandra Sperounes to play music. Who dressed like Vanilla Ice and grew a Hitler moustache. Who lied to the guy who had sex with his ex that he had AIDS. Who showed up at my door wearing nothing but a construction hat, boots, and a saw and asked me to make him a Sunshine Boy. Who never stopped asking questions. And on and on and on.

As he told *SEE* a few years ago about performing onstage (though it also applies to his life of sweep-kicking the legs from under the status quo): "It's spiritually uplifting. I feel a connection with the people at our shows, and I do it because I feel like that life is gonna end really soon. If

I don't do it now, then one of these guys might die soon. We may die in the car on the way home."

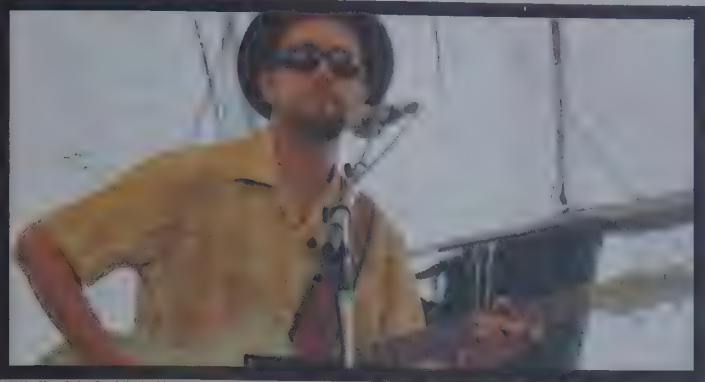
Blair William Piggott lived on the edge, and died well past it. Respect, homie.

Checked out the tail end of the *Blues Fest* this weekend, which turns out to be lots more fun when you don't have to cover it, and can just eat gumbo and dance like you're underwater. *Charlie Musselwhite* wrapped the night up with a rare encore, then packed up his own gear and left the stage — very cool. I then spent the rest of the night trying to fit the word "blues" into every single sentence, greatly annoying everyone around me.

A couple gigs of note: Roland Pemberton, Mr. *Cadence Weapon*, is now DJing Thursdays at the Empress. He makes his debut this week, and says he plans on "making this already popular drinking night slightly weirder for everyone involved. I have a battle plan that includes stuff that never gets played at the Empress, including bassline house, dubstep, grime, no wave, rap, and five or six Bowie songs in one night."

Also of note: as Travis Sargent prepares to leave us on an interstellar — or at least European — journey: the *Secret Fires*' last gig ever is Friday at the ARTery along with the *City Streets* CD release show. For more information, go to the gig and get drunk and listen to the music.

SEEN IT LIVE • GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK



"I-I-V-V... Okay, Doing Good, I'm Rocking Out. I-I-V-V..." | Nathan James performs on Saturday afternoon at the Labatt Blues Festival. PHOTO © ANDREW PAUL

LABATT BLUES FESTIVAL HAWRELAK PARK • AUG. 24

The Sunday morning scene resembled a day camp for parents as 3,000 bleary-eyed blues fanatics lined up outside Heritage Amphitheatre for the last day of the Labatt Blues Festival.

It had been a good party so far: the crowd was absorbing the vibes that blues legends like Pinetop Perkins and James Cotton were laying down, women were dancing with trees and the tangy smell of marijuana was wafting through the air. This is where baby boomers come to get their kicks.

The organization of the event was top-notch as well, thanks to the efforts of the small army of volunteers, many of them 10-year veterans of the event. Considering that it took an average of just three minutes to purchase a cup of beer, other festival organizers should be taking notes.

The highlight of the weekend was Sunday night's boogie-woogie spectacular featuring Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne, David Vest, and pinch-hitter Ann Rabson — the jolly old grandmother of

soul — who stepped in after D.K. Stewart was stopped at customs for reasons that were never fully explained. Seating was scarce, but on Saturday a friend discovered that the best seat in the house isn't in the house at all. Instead, for \$7 we rented a paddleboat for an hour and listened to the blues roll across the water while we communed with the pond-dwellers. Who knows — in the right company, with Janiva Magness serenading you, those paddleboats could be the best makeout spot in the city. The potential of this paddleboat business is something I will definitely confirm next year when I make my return visit to the fest...

ANDREW PAUL

DARREK ANDERSON & THE GUARANTEED THE BLACK DOG • AUG. 20

Darrek Anderson specializes in classic Albertan songwriting: his songs are best heard through at least two shots of Royal Reserve, with a long-abandoned range road charting the verse-chorus-verse course. And The Guaranteed are

a perfect backing band for him: the changes are sharp, the chords chime, the drums beat large and loud. These are the kind of boys who have no interest in rock-star fantasies; they listen to rock 'n' roll because it reflects the sound of the dirt beneath their boots on the side of a highway. In Anderson's world, all the booze is home-brewed and all the bars are full... which makes it all the more painful when you find yourself choking on the words to say to the beautiful girl across the room.

These simple, straight-ahead country songs might sound lonely and broken-hearted on an acoustic, but in the hands of The Guaranteed, they're transformed into full-on bar-raising riots. Drummer Scott Davidchuk doesn't so much keep time as *feel* where each beat should drop, bassist Tom Murray proves that a metronome has nothing on the instinctive rhythms of the human soul, and Everett LaRoi's swelling blue guitar shakes the brittle pint glasses all the way to the dartboard at the back of the bar.

EAMON MCGRATH

MAC EWAN

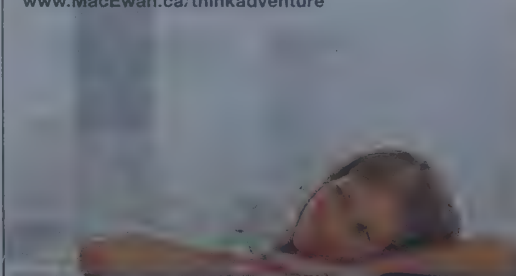
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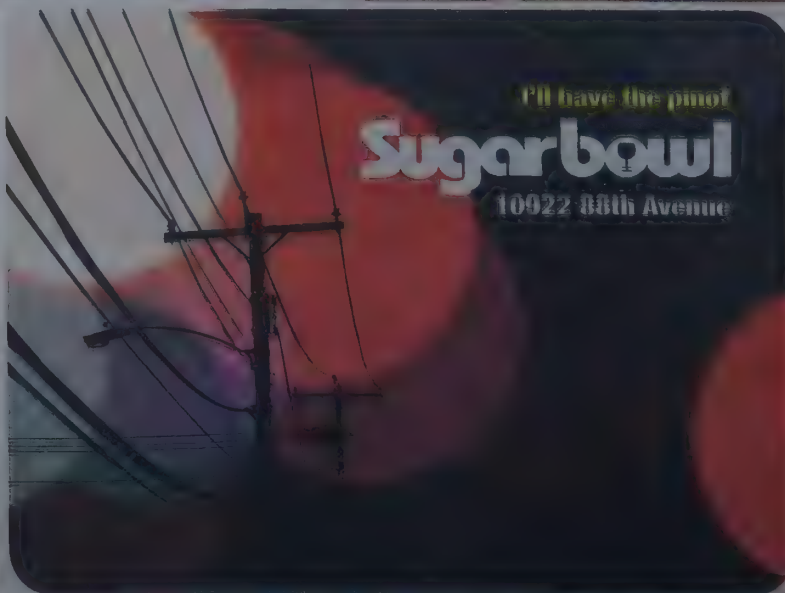
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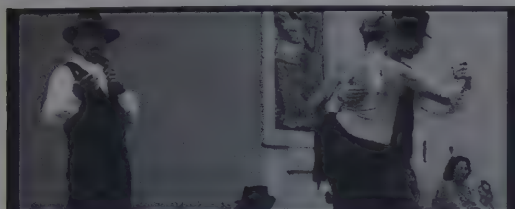


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CD REVIEWS



GLEN CAMPBELL
Meet Glen Campbell
(Capitol)
★★★★☆

My parents' old stereo wasn't just a stereo; it was an honest-to-God piece of furniture: heavy, wooden, as big as a coffin, with burgundy velvet covering the speakers that reminded me of church. But the music I associate it with isn't hymns but the country-pop crossover records by Bobbie Gentry, Anne Murray, and Glen Campbell that my mother liked to listen to.

Meet Glen Campbell, the new record by the 1970s' most apple-cheeked chart-topper, would have sounded great on that stereo. It recreates that slick, earphone-filling "AM Gold" sound of three decades past, but this time out, Campbell is singing songs by The Foo Fighters, Travis, and Green Day. And the whole unlikely-sounding project works beautifully. Campbell's voice has aged very gracefully; he brings a gentle tenderness to The Replacements' "Sadly Beautiful," and his version of U2's "All I Want Is You" is majestic without turning bombastic. (Are you listening, Bono?) Maybe his version of The Velvet Underground's "Jesus" lacks the darker shadings that Johnny Cash might have brought to it, but that's okay: It's good to know the Wichita Lineman is still on the line.

PAUL MATWYCHUK

MADVILLAIN

Madvillainy 2: The Madlib Remix (Stones Throw)
★★★★☆



As the story on the making of this remix album goes, MF Doom took so long to record his rhymes for the follow-up to 2004's *Madvillainy*, one of the most acclaimed and brilliantly inventive hip-hop albums in recent memory, that his partner/producer Madlib got bored—so bored he decided to make the sequel all by himself. So *Madvillainy 2* takes Doom's vocals from the original, puts new beats underneath them, shuffles the order...and works about as well as can be expected. The album starts strong with "Pearls" and "Light of the Past" (né "Curtis" and "Shadow of Tomorrow") rebuilt around weird percussive dings and out-of-tune recorders. These do a good job replicating Madvillainy's unpredictability, though too often Madlib goes on autopilot, replaying old jazz tracks instead of making twisted collages out of them. But at least he's doing something—I wish I could say the same for the palpably absent MC. Wherever you are, Doom, would it kill you to send us a postcard? MICHAEL HINGSTON

LOS UPDATES

First, If You Please (Cadenza)
★★★★★



Welcome to my favorite album of the year, everybody! I've had, like, 20 or 30 favourites so far if I think back through to January...but it's August, so this one may actually stay on top. I've been reviewing records for so long that I'm unable to simply enjoy music anymore, so I had to devote a lot of thought to why I love this album so much. I tried to think of comparisons and failed to come up with any—except perhaps Yello at their most Latin and jazzy. Like that Swiss duo of the '80s, these guys are fun, endearingly weird, and never afraid to experiment and derail the cybernetic cumbias and silicon sambas. The vocals are far less cerebral, however—most of these tracks are about partying and sex, and I think "Charlie, Hold On" is ultimately about cocaine. With his breathy, hilariously blunt, breathy sprechgesang, Jorge Gonzales tries to come off like a Latino Prince but ends up reminding you more of Fez from *That '70s Show*. If only I laughed so hard every time I threw on something new. PROSPER PRODANIUK

ALICE COOPER

Along Came A Spider (SPV)
★★★★☆



Like plenty of families in the '80s, each Sunday the Sargents would gather around the TV for a half-hour of the most sensational, inspirational, celebrational program around: *The Muppet Show*. Kermit and co. are responsible for introducing me to Elton John, Steve Martin, and Vincent Price, but the episode I most vividly remember guest-starred an androgynous Alice Cooper miming around in a Dracula getup singing "Welcome to My Nightmare," offering to buy the puppets' souls in a creepy Faustian exchange. My churchgoing mother turned off the tube as soon as Cooper donned his red devil costume, and I've been a fan ever since. Until now. *Along Came A Spider* is a dud, thorough and through. Ol' Coop's once great glam-rock sound is replaced by brutal nu-metal—even cameos from Slash and Ozzy aren't enough save this one. Seriously, 60 year-olds should be spending less time making rock albums and more time worrying about telemarketing scams and not shitting themselves. Old people are the worst. TRAVIS SARGENT

LIVE MUSIC

THURSDAY

ALTERNATIVE

BROKER'S CLUB SIGN UP PARTY THE PAWN SHOP With Carpenter, Greater than Giants and The End Credits. Doors 8 p.m., free before 9 p.m.. Visit www.pawnshoplive.ca. **TOY SINGERS HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB** Tickets \$10.

BLUES & ROOTS

MAURICE JOHN VAUGHN BLUES ON WHYTE.

DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

DJ HARRY JAMES THE DOCKS Every Thu.

HIGHER LEVEL THURSDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Drum & bass with Dis Dreadnought, PhatCat, MC Enlite, and guests. Every Thu.

I LOVE BO'S NEW CITY LIKVID LOUNGE with Dexter Nebula & Anarchy Adam. Every Thu.

JUNIOR BROWN RED STAR Every Thu.

MIA FELLOW BUDDY'S with DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy. Every Thu.

PUB NIGHT THURSDAYS THE BANK Every Thu.

SALSA STYLE THURSDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Every Thu.

URBAN SUBSTANCE THURSDAYS GINGER SKY LOUNGE with Urban Substance Sound Crew. Every Thu.

FRIDAY

ALTERNATIVE

COCKATOO AND THE TURN VELVET UNDERGROUND, 8 p.m. No minors.

TAKING MEDICATION CD RELEASE PARTY HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB, 8 p.m. With Melissa Majeau and Darren Mahais. Tickets \$10.

TOM MEAD The Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse.

BLUES & ROOTS

GORDIE MATTHEWS JEFFREY'S CAFE & WINE BAR \$10 @ the door.

MAURICE JOHN VAUGHN BLUES ON WHYTE.

POP & ROCK

AIRBOURNE WITH SOUND & FURY AND PARLOR MOB EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE Ticket info at www.ticketmaster.ca.

LAGWAGON WITH THE SAINTE CATHERINES AND TAT DINWODDIE LOUNGE, 7 p.m. Ticket info at www.ticketmaster.ca.

OASIS WITH RYAN ADAMS, THE CARDINALS AND MATT COSTA REKALL PLACE, 7 p.m. Ticket info at www.ticketmaster.ca.

DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

BITCH BITCH BITCH NEW CITY SUBURBS Every Fri.

CONNECTED FRIDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Local house & international guest DJs. Every Fri.

DJ CLAY STONEFLASH PUB Every Fri.

DJ EDDY TOONFLASH BUDDY'S Every Fri.

DJ LOOSE CANNON IRON HORSE Every Fri.

DJ SHAWNIBIS ON THE ROCKS Every Fri.

FORBIDDEN FRIDAYS EMPIRE BALLROOM Every Fri.

FORMULA FRIDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE DJ Groovy Cunny, DJ Fouze. Every Fri.

FRIDAY NIGHT FREAK OUT NEW CITY LIKVID LOUNGE with Anarchy Adam and G-Whiz. Every Fri.

JUICY DJ SUEDE LOUNGE Every Fri.

THE MOD CLUB HALO Soul, R&B, indie, Brit pop, new wave, and electro. Every Tue.

COOL LATIN TUESDAYS FUNKY BUDDHA Dance Lessons. Every Tue.

ALTERNATIVE

CHUCK BROWN SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB DOWNTOWN Live Music. No cover.

TONY DIZON SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB WEM LIVE Music. No cover.

BLUES & ROOTS

FROM AUSTRALIA TOBY BLUES ON WHYTE.

DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

BEATPARTY WEDNESDAYS STOLLI'S Every Wed.

FLASHBACK WEDNESDAYS THE BANK Mash-up retro beats Every Wed.

GLITTER GULCH WEDNESDAYS BLACK DOG with DJ Buster Friendly. Every Wed.

GUEST DJ RED STAR Every Wed.

ROCK OUT WITH YER BOX OUT NEW CITY Every Wed.

WILD CHERRY WEDNESDAYS STOLLI'S with Triggsworth, Rezndi Funk, Steve Velocity, Fusion. Every Wed.

WILD STYLE WEDNESDAYS HIP-HOP VELVET UNDERGROUND Every Wed.

POP & ROCK

MIKE PLUMB BAND REUNION TOUR THE PAWN SHOP, 8 p.m.

OPEN STAGE

SATURDAY

BLUES ON WHYTE 4-8:30 p.m. Afternoon jam, visit www.bluesonwhyte.ca.

THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE 7-10 p.m. Music and poetry open mic.

COAST TO COAST 9 p.m.-2 a.m. with Troy P Wright.

EXPRESSIONZ CAFE 1ST SAT EVERY MONTH 1-5 p.m. Hosted by Karyn Stirling. Info: www.expressionzcafe.com.

MORANGO'S TEK CAFE 7-10 p.m. Hosted by Tomamy. Info: www.morangostekcafes.com.

THE NEW TAPHOUSE 3-7 p.m. Molson open stage, hosted by Carmen Cook.

XWRECKS 7 p.m..

SUNDAY

DUSTERS PUB Hosted by The Mary Thomas Band.

EDDIE SHORTS 9 p.m. Hosted by Rob Taylor, instruments and gear provided.

HOLLIGANZ PUB Afternoon jam hosted by Rock 'n' Roll Kenny.

NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 3-6 p.m. Hosted by Willie James & Crawford.

O'BRYNE'S IRISH PUB 9 p.m. Hosted by Joe Bird.

THE OVERDRIVE 130-5 p.m. "Anything Goes" afternoon acoustic jam hosted by The Shufflehound.

SONG WRITER'S STAGE HULBERT'S 7:10-11:55 p.m. Hosted by Rhea March. Info: www.hulberts.ca.

TEDDY'S LOUNGE & EATERY 9-30 p.m.

MONDAY

THE IVORY CLUB 8 p.m. Hosted by Marty Vinko.

LB'S PUB 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Hosted by Shaved Posse: Ken, Fred, Gordie, and Matt.

PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7 p.m. Acoustic fiddle jam hosted by Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Society. Info: Willy, 780-474-5270.

reggae & classic punk, Dis Blue Jay & Travy D. Every Fri.

NEON NIGHTS THE BANK Every Fri.

RED FRIDAYS THE DOCKS Military appreciation night. Every Fri.

ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL Every Fri.

SEXY FRIDAY 180 DEGREES Reggae and Top 40 with Generation IIVEXX & DJ G-Unit. Every Fri.

SATURDAY

ALTERNATIVE

THE AUGUST BENEFIT CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF THE YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER VELVET UNDERGROUND, 8 p.m. With Politic Live, Screw Tape Lewis and Dawn in The City.

ENSEMBLE DE LA RUE: THE FULL MONTY HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, 8 p.m.

GORDIE MATTHEWS AND RALPH PRETZ THE ROCK PUB AND GRILL 8:30 p.m.

THEE JOHNSONS THE PAWN SHOP 9 p.m. Nate's last show, with guests Change Methodical and E-Town Beatdown. Free before 10 p.m.

Z-TRIP AND GUESTS STARLITE ROOM, 9 p.m. III minors.

BLUES & ROOTS

GAYE DELORME HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB, 8 p.m. The man behind Cheech and Chong performs a wide range of musical genres. \$10 at the door.

MAURICE JOHN VAUGHN BLUES ON WHYTE.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON JAM BLUES ON WHYTE Hosted by Angela Mackend, every Sat.

SLOWBURN BEAUMONT FAIR GROUNDS, 3-50 p.m.

SUNDAY

BLUES & ROOTS

BOOGIE PATROL BLUES ON WHYTE.

POP & ROCK

BACKSTREET BOYS WITH GIRLICIOUS REKALL PLACE, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY

ALTERNATIVE

DJ RUDY ELECTRO BUDDY'S Every Mon.

ELECTRIC NONSENSE BLACK DOG with Confederacy of Dunces, Dad Rock, TJ Hookah, and Rear Admiral Saunders. Every Mon.

MUNCH ON METAL MONDAYS NEW CITY LIKVID LOUNGE Every Mon.

BLUES & ROOTS

BOOGIE PATROL BLUES ON WHYTE.

TUESDAY

ALTERNATIVE

CHUCK BROWN SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB DOWNTOWN Live Music. No cover.

PSYCHOBILLY FREAKOUT THE PAWN SHOP 8 p.m. Featuring the Brains and The Benders with guests.

TONY DIZON SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB WEM LIVE Music. No cover.

BLUES & ROOTS

FROM AUSTRALIA TOBY BLUES ON WHYTE.

DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

DJ ARROWCHASER BUDDY'S Every Tue.

DJ HOT PHILLY RED STAR Experimental indie rock, hip hop,

CHECK OUT OUR SELECTION OF NEW

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Viking | Ultrafine

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"A PERFECT MOVIE!"

- Geoff Pevere, TORONTO STAR



- THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"A TRIUMPHANT EXPERIENCE!"

RICH, TEXTURED, URGENT, PROFOUND!"

-Ann Hornaday, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE
EDGE OF
HEAVEN

A FILM BY FATIH AKIN

WINNER BEST SCREENPLAY CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER BEST SCREENPLAY CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

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WINNER BEST SCREENPLAY CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

we want to see it!
#style@see.greatwest.ca

my.look {p.19}

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH
BEERS FOR QUEERS

IMPRESS

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT STARTS FRIDAY!

CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY FOR SCHEDULES • DIGITAL SOUND

PRINCESS

VENUE GUIDE

180 DEGREES RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB 10730 107TH AVE. 780-434-9233.
ARDEN THEATRE #5 ST. ANNE ST., ST. ALBERT 780-459-1542.
THE ARTERY 9535 JASPER AVE.
ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL 7704 104TH ST. 780-432-4671.
AVENUE SKATEPARK 9030 118TH AVE. 780-477-2149.
AXIS CAFE 10349 JASPER AVE. 780-990-0031.
BAR WILD 10551 WHYTE AVE. 780-432-0814.
BELL & COURT PUB 200-10A MAIN BLVD. SHERWOOD PARK 780-464-1226.
BLACK DOG 10425 82ND AVE. 780-439-1082.
BLIND PIG #32 ST. ANNE ST., ST. ALBERT 780-418-6332.
BLUES CHAIR CAFE 9624 76TH AVE. 780-989-2861.
BLUES ON WHYTE 10329 82ND AVE. 780-439-5058.
B-STREET BAR 11818 118TH AVE. 780-414-0545.
BUDDY'S 117259 JASPER AVE. 780-488-7736.
BUDY'S LOUNGE CAPITANO MALL, 98TH AVE. 50TH ST. 780-459-5588.
CAFE LEVA 10553 86TH AVE. 780-479-5382.
CAFE BRITT 120 MCLEOD AVE., SPOURCE GROVE 780-962-2571.
THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE 9357 118TH AVE. 780-471-1580.
CASTLEDOWNS PUB 16753 100TH ST. 780-457-7711.
CASINO EDMONTON 7055 ARGYLL RD. 780-463-9467.
CASINO YELLOWHEAD 12464 153RD ST. 780-424-9457.
CENTURY CASINO 13103 FORT AVE. 780-643-4000.
CHIMMY'S 8304 144TH AVE. 780-428-1770.
CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY PUB 2021 MILLBOURNE RD. 780-462-6565.
CLIFF'S PUB & PANTRY 8214 15TH ST. 780-487-8887.
COCKO 10160 100A ST. 780-423-1777.
COAST TO COAST PUB 5552 CALGARY TRAIL. 780-439-9675.
CROWN & ANCHOR PUB 15277 CASTLEDOWNS RD. 780-472-7656.
CROWN PUB 10709 109TH ST. 780-428-5618.
DOYLE'S PUB 2619 15TH AVE. 780-434-1961.
THE DRUID 11606 JASPER AVE. 780-454-9928.
DUSTERS PUB 6402 118TH AVE. 780-474-5554.
DVB TAVERN 8307 99TH ST. 780-460-9077.
ECCO PUB 9605 65TH AVE. 780-435-5050.
EDDIE SHORTS 10713 124TH ST. 780-453-3663.
ELEMENT LOUNGE 10807 106TH AVE. 780-420-1530.
EMPIRE BALLROOM WEM UPPER LEVEL PHASE II, 780-488-9494.
EMPRESS ALE HOUSE 9912 82ND AVE. 780-758-2754.
ESMERLDA'S THE RAMADA ON KINGSWAY, 11834 KINGSWAY AVE. 780-433-7320.

EXPRESSIONS CAFE 20125 107TH AVE. 780-471-9125.
FESTIVAL PLACE 100 FESTIVAL WAY, SHERWOOD PARK 780-464-2852.
FIDDLER'S ROOST 8906 99TH ST. 780-439-9788.
FILTHY MONASTY 2ND FL., 10571 82ND AVE. 780-432-5274.
FORT GAMING LOUNGE & SPORTS BAR 13403 FORT RD. 780-406-2916.
FOUR ROOMS 137 CITY CENTRE EAST. 780-426-4767.
FOX PUB 10125 109TH ST. 780-990-0580.
FRESH START BAKERY & BISTRO 484 RIVERBEND SQUARE. 780-433-9623.
FUNKY BUDDHA 10341 82ND AVE. 780-433-9676.
GAS PUB 10160 114TH ST. 780-488-4843.
GO SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE 10044 82ND AVE. 780-433-5794.
HALO 10538 JASPER AVE. 780-423-4256.
HAWKEYE'S TOO 10044 102ND ST. 780-471-9898.
HILLTOP PUB 8220 106TH AVE. 780-490-7559.
HOOLIGANZ PUB 10704 124TH ST. 780-452-1168.
HULBERT'S 16011 115TH ST. 780-436-1161.
IVORY CLUB & EBONY LOUNGE 2940 CALGARY TR. 780-465-6800.
JEFFREYS CAFE & WINE BAR 9640 142ND ST. 780-451-8890.
JEKYL & HYDE PUB 10209 100TH AVE. 780-426-5381.
JET NIGHTCLUB & SPORTS LOUNGE 9221 34TH AVE. 780-466-6552.
JOHN L. HAAR THEATRE 10045 155TH ST. CENTRE FOR THE ARTS. 780-477-4340.
J.R. GRILL & BAR 3901 106TH ST. 780-436-4403.
JUGS PUB 7450 82ND AVE. 780-465-4046.
JULIAN'S PIANO BAR CHATEAU LOUIS, 11727 KINGSWAY AVE. 780-452-7770.
KEEP IT SIMPLE (KIS) CLUB 11720 82ND ST. 780-471-4705.
KNIGHTS PUB SOUTH 1919 105TH ST. 780-461-0587.
LB'S PUB 23 AKINS DR., ST. ALBERT. 780-460-9100.
THE LOCKER ROOM 10209 100TH AVE. 780-421-8892.
MCDOUGALL UNITED CHURCH 10025 101ST ST. 780-428-1818.
MEGATONES 10355 82ND AVE. 780-434-6342.
METRO BILLIARDS 10250 106TH ST. 780-990-0704.
MOJO'S PLACE 10115 88TH AVE., FORT SASK. 780-992-0505.
MONA LISA PUB 9606 118TH AVE. 780-477-7572.
MORANGO'S TEX CAFE 10118 75TH ST. 780-450-9906.
MURRIETA'S 10612 82ND AVE. 780-438-4100.
MUTTART HALL ALBERTA COLLEGE, 10050 MACDONALD DR. 780-497-5040.
NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR 10354 JASPER AVE. 780-425-9730.

NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 6108 90TH AVE. 780-490-1999.
NEW CITY 10081 JASPER AVE. 780-429-CLUB.
NIKITA'S 10162-100A ST. 780-414-0606.
NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE 15355 109A AVE. 780-452-6610.
O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB 10616 82ND AVE. 780-414-6766.
ON THE ROCKS 1740 JASPER AVE. 780-482-4767.
THE OVERDORE 6104 104TH ST. 780-439-9485.
THE PAIN SHOP 2ND FL., 10551 82ND AVE. 780-432-0814.
PEPPERS 320 WESTMOUNT CENTRE, 113TH AVE. & 135TH ST. 780-451-8022.
PLEASANTVIEW HALL 10860 5TH AVE. 780-434-2870.
QUEEN ALEXANDRA HALL 10425 UNIVERSITY AVE. 780-439-9046.
RAMADA SOUTH 5559 CALGARY TRAIL. 780-434-3431.
RATT 7TH FL. SUB. U OF A CAMPUS. 780-492-2153.
RENDEZVOUS 10108 149TH ST. 780-444-1822.
ROBERT TEGLER STUDENT CENTRE 728 ADA BLVD. CONCORDIA CAMPUS. 780-479-8481.
THE ROCK PUB 4570 ST. ALBERT ST. 780-458-5571.
ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL 11715 108TH AVE. 780-447-4777.
ROSE & CROWN PUB 10235 101ST ST. 780-426-7827.
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL 10475 80TH AVE. 780-439-7211.
SNEAKY PETE'S 12315 118TH AVE. 780-451-7770.
STARLITE ROOM 10030 102ND ST. 780-428-1099.
ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE 10819 71ST AVE. 780-438-6410.
STEEPS OLD GLENORA 12411 STONY PLAIN RD. 780-488-1505.
STEEPS TEE LOUNGE COLLEGE PLAZA, 11116 82ND AVE. 780-988-8105.
STRATHGHEAN STEAK & PIZZA LOUNGE 9514 87TH ST. 780-465-5478.
THE STUDIO & MEAD HALL 10940 166A ST. THE TAPHOUSE 9020 MCKENNEY AVE. ST. ALBERT. 780-458-0860.
TEDDY'S PALACE 11361 JASPER AVE. 780-488-0984.
TOUCH OF CLASS GAMING ROOM CHATEAU LOUIS, 11727 KINGSWAY AVE. 780-452-7770.
TWILIGHT AFTERHOURS 10018 105TH ST. 780-990-1772.
URBAN LOUNGE 10544 WHYTE AVE. 780-437-7699.
VELVET UNDERGROUND 10030 102ND ST. 780-428-7827.

WHISTLESTOP LOUNGE 12416 82ND AVE. 780-451-5506.
WINDSOR BAR AND GRILL 11727 87TH AVE. 780-433-7800.
WINSPEAR CENTRE #4 CHURCHILL SQUARE 780-428-1414.

ROSE BOWL/ROUGE LOUNGE 9 p.m.-12 a.m. with Mike McDonald and Sherry-Lee Wisor.
TUNING IN
THE DRUID 9 p.m. Hosted by Chris Wynters.
THE ROCK PUB AND GRILL 6:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Ammar's Moose Head Jam, hosted by Mark Ammar, and Noel "Big Cat" Mackenzie. Every Tues. Call 780-458-5571.
SIDELINERS PUB 8 p.m. All Star Jam. Hosted by Alicia Tait and Rickie Sidecar.

WINE & CORDON
CAFE BRITT 7-9 p.m. Hosted by Paul LePage.
EDDIE SHORTS Open jam, all gear provided.
HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Ido Vanderlaan.
HOOLIGANZ PUB 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Rock 'n' Roll Kenny.
LITTLE FLOWER OPEN STAGE 8 p.m. Hosted by Brian Gregg. Info: www.littleflower.ca or 780-429-3624.
THE NEW TAPHOUSE 9 p.m. Hosted by Danny Floyd.
PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7:30 p.m. Blues jam hosted by Northern Bluesgrass Circle Music Society.
THE ROCK PUB Acoustic night.
STEEPS TEE LOUNGE Acoustic open mic every Wed. Email jessie at jilbert@gmail.com by Mondays to book a spot that week.

KARAOKE

B-STREET BAR Wed-Sun with Brad Scott.
BLIND PIG Wed & Fri with Shelley.
BUD'S LOUNGE Fri & Sat, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. with Mr. Entertainment.
CHIMMY'S Thu, Fri, Sat 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. with Jimmy.
CHRISTOPHER'S PUB Tue, 9 p.m. with Sonia/Prosound Productions.
CROWN & ANCHOR PUB Thu, 10:30 p.m..
CLIFF'S PUB & PANTRY Sat & Sun with Krista, Liquid Entertainment.
DEVANEY'S Thu, 8 p.m.
DOYLE'S PUB Fri, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. with Cathy, Sat, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. with Ewan.
THE DRUID Wed, 9 p.m. with Mr. Entertainment.
DUSTER'S Sat.

D.W.'S PUB & GRILL Fri, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Hosted by Mr. Entertainment.
ECCO PUB Mon, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. with Sonia/Prosound Productions.
ELEMENT LOUNGE Wed, 9 p.m.
FORT GAMING LOUNGE & SPORTS BAR Fri, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. with Angel How.
FOX PUB Tue, 9 p.m.
FUNKY BUDDHA Sun, 9:30 p.m. with Mr. Entertainment.
GAS PUMP Tue & Wed, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. with God's Live Jukebox.
H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE Tue, Sat & Sun.
HAWKEYES TOO Fri & Sat, 8 p.m. with Hot Karaoke Productions.
HILLTOP PUB Thu, 9:30 p.m.
HOOLIGANZ PUB Thu & Fri with Krista, Liquid Entertainment.
INGLEWOOD PUB Thu, 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. with Gordo, Fri & Sat with Jolly Greg Giant, Wed with shauna.
JUGS PUB Sat, 9 p.m.
KEEP IT SIMPLE (KIS) CLUB Tue & Sun, 6-10 p.m. Except 2nd Tue of the month.
KNIGHTS PUB SOUTH Fri & Sat, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. God's Live Jukebox.
L.B.'S PUB Tue, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. with The Karaokeuts.
THE LOCKER ROOM Pub Mon, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. with Norm.
METRO BILLIARDS Tue, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. with Lounge Lizard Entertainment.
MOJO'S Fri, 9:30 p.m. with Sonia/Prosound Productions.
MONA LISA PUB Thu-Sat, 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Sat, with Cathy.
NIKITA'S Tue & Thu, 7 p.m.-midnight with Shelley.
ON THE ROCKS Mon, 9:30 p.m. Drink the Bar Dry Karaoke with Scott Parsons, Mr. Entertainment.
OVERDORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB & GRILL Sat, 9 p.m. with Jennie Joy.
RAMADA SOUTH Thu, 8 p.m. Colin & Ed Music Trivia. Sun, 8 p.m.-midnight with Colin & Ed. Almost Famous.
RATT Tues, 9 p.m. Colin & Ed Music Trivia. Wed, 8 p.m. with Colin. Almost Famous.
WOODS PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL Daily, 9 p.m.
WOODS PUB Mondays & Saturdays with Host Chad, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.

COMING

AUG 29 — AIRBOURNE Edmonton Event Centre
AUG 29 LAGWAGON Dimwoodie Lounge
AUG 29 — OASIS, RYAN ADAMS Rexall Place
AUG 31 — BACKSTREET BOYS Rexall Place
SEP 2 — LEE SCRATCH PERRY Urban Lounge
SEP 3 — ANTIPLAG, CREEPSHOW Starlite Room
SEP 3 — LEE SCRATCH PERRY Urban Lounge
SEP 4 — FINTROLL Starlite Room
SEP 5 — ALL AMERICAN REJECTS, FABER DRIVE, SIMPLE PLAN Rexall Place
SEP 5 — SIMPLE PLAN Rexall Place
SEP 8 — D.O.A., RANCID, WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROES Shaw Conference Centre
SEP 9 — BLOC PARTY, FOALS Edmonton Event Centre
SEP 9 — SANTANA Rexall Place
SEP 10 — TV ON THE RADIO Starlite Room
SEP 12 — AGAINST ME!, JAPANHER, ST. ALVIA CARTEL Edmonton Event Centre
SEP 13 — ELTON JOHN Rexall Place
SEP 14 — DAVE STEWART Winspear Centre
SEP 16 — NEIL DIAMOND Rexall Place

SEP 21 — BONNIE TYLER Festival Place
SEP 27 — ALICE COOPER Jubilee Auditorium
SEP 27 — KELLY CLARKSON, REBA MCMINTYRE Rexall Place
OCT 2 — SHERYL CROW, JIM CINDY Rexall Place
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MOVIE REVIEW • ITALO-THRILLER • BY MICHAEL HINGSTON | 621 words

How Do You Solve A Problem Like Irena?



Did They Cast An Unknown To Play Her? | Michele Placido theaters Kseniya Rappoport in *The Unknown Woman*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

THE MYSTERIOUS HEROINE OF *THE UNKNOWN WOMAN* IS A STUDY IN KALEIDOSCOPIC CONTRASTS

THE UNKNOWN WOMAN

Directed by Giuseppe Tornatore. Starring Kseniya Rappoport, Michele Placido, Claudia Gerini. Opens Fri, Aug 29. ★★★★★

Despite what the title may have you believe, Irena, the heroine of Giuseppe Tornatore's *The Unknown Woman*, is not all that mysterious—at least not to the audience. From the earliest fragments of flashback, we can do a decent job of reconstructing her past: in her younger (and blonder) days she was a prostitute for an exclusive yet overbearing clientele, and somewhere along the way she had a passionate riverside fling with a man who was not a customer.

More disturbingly, we're also literally shown a lot more—and in a lot more detail—than we want to know about her former life. In fact, Irena (Kseniya Rappoport) strips naked for an unseen client within the very first minute, and there's a particularly brutal recurring flashback where she's tied up and raped by what seems to be a roomful of glistening, predatory strangers.

Amidst these snippets of trauma, however, there's an unlikely amount of empathy and even quiet moments of beauty in Tornatore's jigsaw drama. Instead of the basic details of her shady past, the real narrative intrigue comes from how Irena keeps it all together in her second life, as a housekeeper to the icy Adacher family—and how she reacts when her possessive former pimp starts to again lurk around every corner,

ominously demanding money and threatening to unravel all that she has slowly rebuilt.

In other words, the prostitute Irena turns out to be far less vulnerable than her reinvented domestic self. We quickly realize that when shown naked and from across an empty warehouse, Irena is just an anonymous female body. She's a total blank, devoid of personality—a point made all the more explicit by the mask Irena's client has forced her to wear while being inspected (This is also where she puts up the toughest front, the stiffest upper lip, as a necessary survival mechanism.) Ironically, it's only once she's fully clothed and starting anew, fixing meals and singing lullabies for young Thea (Clara Dossena), that her real personality leaks out, bit by bit, and only then does Irena begin to look

truly exposed.

These are the moments that Tornatore, able storyteller and emotion-stirrer that he is, pounces on: flashes of the rape appear at the most innocuous moments, right when Irena seems to be on solid ground, as a constant reminder of the hell she's only gradually clawed her way back from. When Thea gets pushed around at school, Irena trains her to slap and kick the boys back; when surly Mr. Adacher (Pierfrancesco Favino) looks at her lingeringly for some unknown reason, Irena has an instinctive, split-second reaction where she looks ready to gouge his eyes out and feed them to him. The reappearance of her pimp simply makes tangible the fear that's already bubbling away under the surface.

Naturally, Rappoport is the beating heart of the film, and she deftly

captures both sides of Irena's dueling personality. At the same time, we never get very far inside her head, so much of her character has to be conveyed physically, through glances, posture, and a constant prickliness at being aware of what's going on around her. And she's not above having her own sociopathic streaks—notably when she sets up the Adachers' former housekeeper to fall down a long staircase, thereby creating a job vacancy for herself to fill—which never get explained away or justified, leaving us with the messy task of deciding whether we can love a character who might be just as vicious as those pursuing her.

Solving a puzzle as elaborate and kaleidoscopic as Irena might seem daunting, but it's well worth it, considering what a compelling picture it makes once it's complete.

DVD DICTATOR • THE MOVIES YOU MUST BUY THIS TUESDAY

PIERCE AND RACHEL!

Married Life

CAST | Pierce Brosnan, Rachel McAdams, Chris Cooper, Patricia Clarkson

It's a slow week in the theatres, and an even slower one on home video—a perfect occasion, if you ask *The Dictator*, to venture off the beaten path and sample *Married Life*. This Sirkian thriller stars Chris Cooper as a buttoned-down 1950s businessman who feels so guilty over his plans to leave his wife for a younger woman (Rachel McAdams) that he decides to spare her the pain by killing her instead. Think *Far From Heaven* crossed with *Dial M for Murder*—not a bad combination!

HELEN AND COLIN!

Then She Found Me

CAST | Helen Hunt, Colin Firth, Bette Midler, Matthew Broderick

After winning the Oscar for Best Actress in 1998 for *As Good As It Gets* and starring in four high-profile films in 2000, Helen Hunt vanished from the big screen, and didn't re-surface until earlier this year with this comedy/drama based on Elinor Lipman's midlife-crisis novel. Hunt directed and co-wrote the film, and stars as a New York teacher whose marriage ends at almost the same time that she reunites with her biological mother. Featuring a cameo by Salman Rushdie as Hunt's gynecologist. This is not a misprint.

JIM AND PAM!


The Office: Season Four

CAST | Steve Carell, John Krasinski, Jenna Fischer, Rainn Wilson

God knows it's heartwarming to see Jim and Pam finally dating (and even contemplating marriage—squel!), and the Dwight/Andy/Angela love triangle is entertainingly twisted, and the transformation of Ryan from brow-beaten temp to evil corporate douchebag is absolutely delicious, but as far as *The Dictator* is concerned, Season Four's pinnacle is the episode where Michael and Jan throw the most excruciatingly uncomfortable dinner party this side of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*



He's So Handsome! She's So Pretty! | Pierce Brosnan and Rachel McAdams make those period fashions look spectacular in *Married Life*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

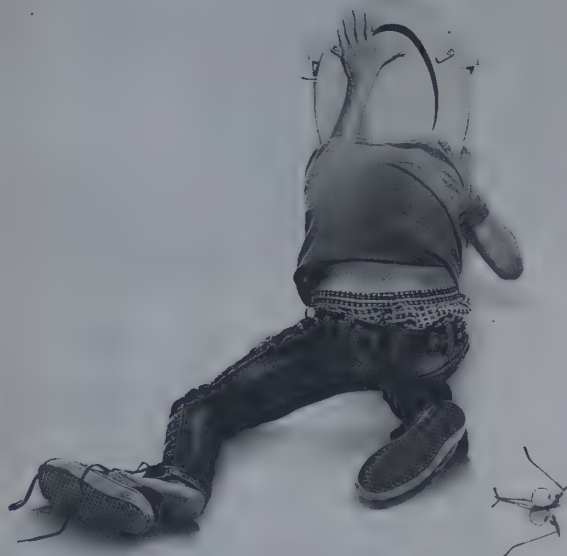


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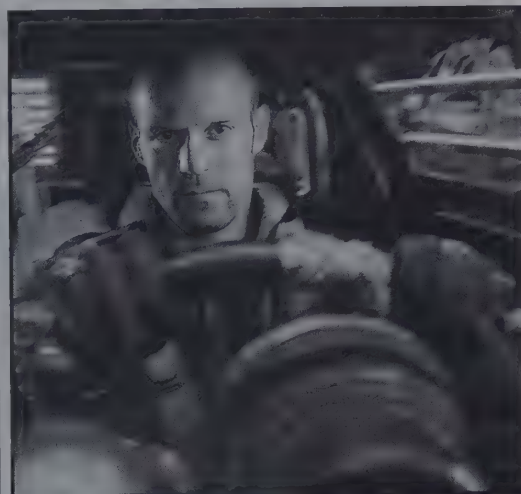
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MOVIE REVIEW • POINTLESS REMAKE • BY TOM MURRAY | 534 words

Asleep At The Wheel



Jason Is Racin'! Jason Statham, you're so awesome... why are you wasting your time in deck like *Death Race*? PHOTO SUPPLIED

DEATH RACE BEGS THE QUESTION: HOW CAN WATCHING CARS GO THIS FAST BE SO INCREDIBLY BORING?

DEATH RACE

Directed by Paul W.S. Anderson. Starring Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson, Ian McShane, Joan Allen. Now playing. ★★☆☆

Paul Bartel's 1975 B-movie *Death Race 2000* may have been a piece of schlock, but at least there was entertainment value to it – which is more than can be said for this loose remake by Paul W.S. Anderson.

How do we count the ways Anderson botches the job? Endlessly, actually – and despite the presence of exploitation producer Roger Corman (who had a hand in the original), this slab of uninspired celluloid couldn't possibly have been more poorly handled.

It's 2012, and an economic downturn has left many people without work, including steelworker Jensen Aimes (Statham). Back home with his young family, Aimes is surprised by a masked and armed intruder, who wounds the unemployed man and kills his wife. The fix is obviously in on this one – Aimes is found guilty of his wife's murder and sentenced to Terminal Prison, which is run by the steely warden Hennessy (Allen), who, it turns out, had a hand in Aimes frame-up.

Sound familiar? Like maybe a role earmarked for Arnold Schwarzenegger during his run of '90s science fiction flicks? Prisons are privately owned corporations in the world of *Death Race* – and as was the case in Arnie's *The Running Man*, prisoners are used as assets to be deployed in bloody televised games of combat involving... cars! And guns! And stock villains the likes of which even Bartel would have rolled his

eyes at!

In short, Aimes has been selected by Hennessy as her "champion," with the carrot for this service being that if he wins five races, he gets his freedom. In the way is archvillain Machine Gun Joe (played in the original by Sylvester Stallone and here by Tyrese Gibson) as well as Hennessy herself. The race is on!

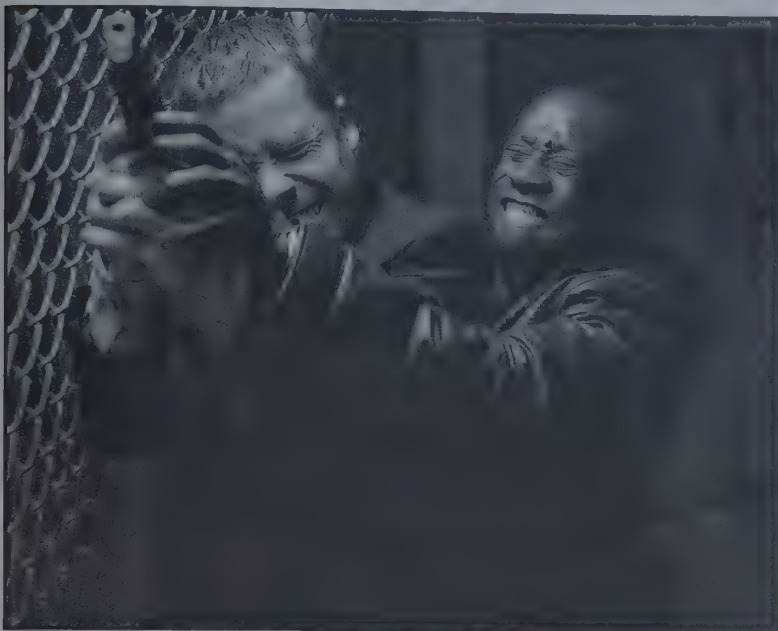
Death Race is a live-action version of videogames like *Need for Speed* or *Grand Theft Auto* – maybe even the driving parts of *Vice City* – except the cars are heavily armoured and equipped with weaponry. Whatever small plot points need to be made, whatever character development might be needed, it's all submerged under big, loud racing sequences and explosions.

So what, you say – why should any of this matter? Point taken: dumb action movies follow their own rules, and can be pleasurable in their own way. And *Death Race* would have been fine under those relaxed strictures if it weren't for the fact that director Anderson has to be one of the most unimaginative directors of racing sequences ever to come down the pike. No, really – it's truly amazing that this man has been allowed to work on a big-budget action film after he's proven over and over again in films like *Resident Evil* and *Alien vs. Predator* that he's a hack of the highest order.

It also doesn't help that, as idiotic as the set-up is, as stock as all the characterizations are, they're played almost entirely straight. That's my biggest beef with the film: if you're going to resurrect one of the dumbest films of the '70s, at least have the good grace to play it for laughs. What – did Anderson think he was remaking *Brave New World*, but with grenade launchers and modified Formula One vehicles?

MOVIE REVIEW • INTERNATIONAL THRILLER • BY SCOTT LINGLEY (553 words)

The Teary-Eyed Terrorist

Watch Out, Guy Pearce! There's A Traitor Behind You! | Don Cheadle breaks out a little hand-to-hand in *Traitor*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

DON CHEADLE CAN'T STOP MISTING UP AS A MUSLIM BOMBMAKER WITH A CONSCIENCE IN *TRAITOR*

TRAITOR

Directed by Jeffrey Nachmanoff. Starring Don Cheadle, Jeff Daniels, Guy Pearce. Now playing.

★★★★☆

Jeffrey Nachmanoff's *Traitor* profers an unlikely protagonist for a globe-spanning action thriller in Samir Horn (Don Cheadle), a Sudanese-American Muslim and purveyor of explosives to would-be suicide bombers.

As the film opens, Samir's latest

watch for Canada in a bit part as a portal for jihadis — in unfurling its detailed story, pausing frequently to embellish it with observations about Islam as a religion of peace and the legitimacy of certain pan-Arab gripes about the West. In case you don't pick it up from Cheadle's tormented, moist-eyed gazes into the middle distance, Nachmanoff's script (from a story he wrote with Steve Martin, of all people) obliges Pearce's by-the-book federal agent to say things like, "Seems like every religion has more than one face."

More effective is the performance by Taghmaoui in the third-banana position. The French actor hopefu-

like anyone — even Don Cheadle! The actor seems to be bearing the burden of creating a sympathetic Muslim character quite heavily, so much so that his eyes start watering every time the camera rests on him too long.

But Nachmanoff is careful to ensure that never happens by sporadically fiddling with camera-on-a-string effects and using that jagged editing style that goes so well with *Traitor*'s bleached-out, super-grainy action-film cinematography. He does jet his cameras to some stunning locations, however, which help offset the middling melodrama of the script.

Traitor does trot out some effec-

THERE ARE 1.2 BILLION MUSLIMS ON THE PLANET AND LESS THAN A THIRD OF THEM ARE ARAB. THAT'S WHY THE SLEEPER CELLS IN AMERICA ARE SO TREACHEROUS: THESE TERRORIST OPERATIVES COULD LOOK LIKE ANYONE — EVEN DON CHEADLE!

delivery has landed him in a Yemeni jail, where he looks set to rot until his devotion and integrity attract the notice of a well-connected Islamist named Omar (Said Taghmaoui). When Omar's people bust him out of stir, they take Samir with them and introduce the bombmaker to the leadership of a very active terrorist cell. Before long, this new relationship catches the attention of Roy Clayton (Guy Pearce), a federal agent with reason to believe similar terror attacks are planned for the United States. And the race against time is on!

Traitor bounds between atmospheric locations in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North America —

lly has some film-nerd cachet for his memorable turns in movies as diverse as Mathieu Kassovitz's *La Haine* and David O. Russell's *Three Kings*, and he's watchable here as well, even playing a guy bent on sowing havoc in the complacent streets of America.

Cheadle, as you may have guessed, I'm less crazy about. Perhaps it's his unsuitability for the role — smug piety aside — that makes him perfect. As Clayton mentions in one of the film's many educational asides, there are 1.2 billion Muslims on the planet and less than a third of them are Arab. That's why the sleeper cells in America are so treacherous: these terrorist operatives could look

tive, if slightly run-of-the-mill excitement in its action sequences, but the heavy-handedness of its intentions adds little to the film's overall momentum or suspense. Maybe the final scene, which speaks to the possibility of rapprochement between Islam and the West, is intended to tie off the movie's cultural and spiritual proings, but it also leaves a bunch of plot threads whistling in the breeze.

So the question of whether you should go see *Traitor* might depend on how you select your international action thrillers. How important is the complexity of their global geopolitical outlook? There's your answer right there.

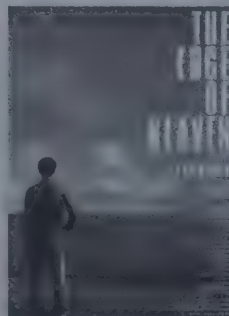


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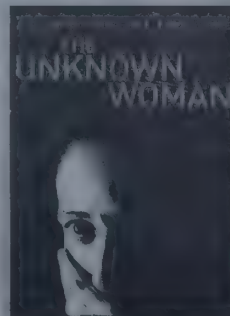


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I've Seen Faris And I've Seen Rainn

THE HOUSE BUNNY AND THE ROCKER BOTH FALL WELL SHORT OF THEIR STARMARKING POTENTIAL

THE ROCKER

Directed by Peter Cattaneo. Starring Rainn Wilson, Emma Stone, Josh Gad, Christina Applegate. Now playing.

★☆☆☆

THE HOUSE BUNNY

Directed by Fred Wolf. Starring Anna Faris, Emma Stone, Colin Hanks, Beverly D'Angelo. Now playing.

★☆☆☆

One nice thing about all those movies from the Judd Apatow comedy factory: you no longer have to be good-looking, or even famous, to have a big-budget mainstream Hollywood comedy built around you. Nobody knew who Seth Rogen was when *Knocked Up* came out, but they put his giant face on the poster anyway. Steve Carell had a certain following from *The Daily Show* and *The Office*, but he was hardly a name-brand comedian when posters for *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* started appearing in movie theatres. This year, Jason Segel got his chance to become a movie star with *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, and I'm sure it's only a matter of time before Jonah Hill and Martin Starr get their shot as well.

Rainn Wilson and Anna Faris have spent years as comic supporting players, but this week they both get their first shot at carrying an entire Hollywood comedy on their shoulders: Wilson is starring in *The Rocker*, and Faris is headlining *The House Bunny*. Judd Apatow didn't

have anything to do with either film (and *The House Bunny* is more in the mould of an old Goldie Hawn vehicle or *Legally Blonde* than an Apatow comedy), but I'm betting the success of his films made it a lot easier for them to get made—and the marketing for both films has definitely been influenced by the poster campaigns for *Knocked Up* and *40-Year-Old Virgin*. If only either film made better use of their star.

On the other hand, it may be that Rainn Wilson (best known as Dwight Schrute on TV's *The Office*, although I think his choicest role was as Arthur, the creepy apprentice mortician on *Six Feet Under*) may simply be better in small doses—he has a weird, intense, bug-eyed energy that gets a little exhausting over the course of a feature film. In *The Rocker*, he plays Robert "Fish" Fishman, who still hasn't recovered from getting kicked out of the hair-metal band Vesuvius just before they got signed to a major-label deal and became multi-platinum rock stars. He's spent the ensuing 20 years doing one soul-crushing minimum-wage job after another, his shaggy hairdo an increasingly pathetic remnant of his hard-rocking past.

But when his teenaged nephew's band needs a drummer, Fish reluctantly steps in, and rediscovers his passion for music. The band gets noticed, thanks to an embarrassing YouTube clip of Fish practising in the nude, but the lead singer/songwriter has talent, and soon it looks like the music stardom that once eluded Fish is now once again in his grasp.

The Rocker has a classic Apatovian

"manchild-forced-to-grow-up" story arc, but the details aren't grounded in reality the way the best Apatow movies are. The movie goes wrong right from the opening scene where Fish's bandmates decide to dump him in order to land a record contract—instead of focusing on Fish's pain, director Peter Cattaneo turns the scene into a *Terminator 2* parody, with Wilson ruthlessly chasing down his bandmates as they try to escape in their van. And despite a strong cast (Will Arnett, Fred Armisen, Jeff Garlin, Jane Lynch, Howard Hesseman, and Demetri Martin all put in appearances), Jason Sudeikis is *The Rocker*'s only consistently funny presence, playing an obnoxious label rep. Someone needs to give that guy a movie.

The House Bunny is fairly dire too, but at least it gives Anna Faris room to create her own idiosyncratic variation on the "blonde bimbo" comic stereotype. (You come out of *The House Bunny* wishing someone would give Faris better material; you leave *The Rocker* ready to take a nice, long holiday from Rainn Wilson.) Faris—who gave one of the funniest female performances of the decade earlier this year in the barely-released stoner comedy *Smiley Face*—plays Shelley Darlington, a Playboy bunny forced to fend for herself after getting ousted from Hugh Hefner's mansion. Broke and homeless, she stumbles onto a university campus and talks her way into a job as a "house mother" for Zeta Alpha Zeta, the school's least popular sorority.

I don't think I need to go into the rest of the plot—if I say there are



Too Clever By Half | Anna Faris perfects her patented smart-dumb routine in *The House Bunny*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

makeovers, parties, and a snooty sorority across the street, you can probably figure out most of the major story beats for yourself. (The screenplay is by Karen McCullah Lutz and Kirsten Smith, the team who also wrote *Legally Blonde*, another story about a ditz blonde girly-girl invading academia, which begs the question of whether it's still a rip-off if it's your own work that you're stealing from.)

All the gags at the expense of the nerdy Zeta girls are pretty hopeless and lazy—although Emma Stone (who, coincidentally, is also in *The Rocker*) has obviously had some of Michael Cera's comic timing rub off on her after working with him on *Superbad*.

But somehow in the midst of this boilerplate plot, with its endless succession of dim gags, Faris keeps find-

ing moments of daffy comic inspiration—somehow she even makes the running gag about Shelley's inability to pronounce "philanthropy" amusing. Looking "sexy" is a full-time job for Shelley, and yet somehow, Faris makes her seem perfectly wide-eyed and innocent—she's like a cross between Little Annie Fanny and Amy Adams' Princess Giselle from *Enchanted*.

Perhaps someone will see Faris in *Smiley Face* or *The House Bunny* and be inspired to create a vehicle for her that's worthy of her talents. Maybe it'll even be Judd Apatow. Why not? Faris deserves to be in a film that's genuinely funny from the ground up for a change, and not something like *The House Bunny*, which isn't even a real comedy. Like *The Rocker*, it's just a script with a sellable premise.

ONLINE MOVIES • SUMMER OF '68 | 120 words

Look Out, YouTubers: It's Real!



FREEDOM OF CHOICE: G.H. LEWMER
WITH THE 2008 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION TAKING PLACE IN DENVER, IT'S A GOOD TIME TO REVISIT MEDIUM COOL

It would be extraordinarily generous to say that political narrative cinema in the United States is going through a "quiet" phase. ("Comatose" might be a more apt description.) I suppose one can argue that films such as *Michael Clayton*, *Syriana*, and *War Inc.* are proudly carrying on the Hollywood liberal tradition; how-

ever, I can't help but think there's something blatantly deceptive going on when studio-driven, free market ideas and themes come with a \$30 million plus price tag attached (*Children of Men* being an admirable exception). Somehow I don't think honesty is included in that above equation.

There was a time, however, in the mid- to late '60s when the American studio system was breaking down and making a buck meant more than throwing up the latest Bob Hope comedy into Idaho. Experimentation was everything, and that heady brew could occasionally produce a film such as *Medium Cool*, whose politics and creation mirrored the turmoil that turned 1968 into the Summer of Hate. What on the surface was a straight-ahead love story set against the backdrop of the 1968 Chicago

Democratic National Convention unexpectedly became a masterpiece of ecstatic documentary fiction that revolutionized the way we see and speak cinema.

Robert Forster and Peter Bonerz are a news reporting team assigned to capture the sights and sounds of Chicago in the summer of 1968. Forster unexpectedly becomes emotionally involved with an Appala-

chian single mom (Verna Bloom)

and her young son. When the son disappears on the eve of the Democratic Convention, Forster and Bloom comb the streets of Chicago, amidst rioting and turmoil, in search of the lost boy.

On the surface, the plot sounds ordinary (even somewhat contrived), yet it's not the story that makes the film so memorable; it's the way it's told. Director Haskell Wexler was a renowned cinematographer whose credits include *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, but he also produced, directed, and shot several socially conscious documentaries outside the Hollywood system. Throughout *Medium Cool*, he placed his actors in actual situations and locations and had them improvise their way through their scenes while a bare-bones crew documented the results. The film is filled with astonishing clashes between the real and imagined; it's the birth of a revolutionary film grammar that is still shocking today.

WATCH MEDIUM COOL ONLINE
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chian single mom (Verna Bloom) and her young son. When the son disappears on the eve of the Democratic Convention, Forster and Bloom comb the streets of Chicago, amidst rioting and turmoil, in search

Scenes of Forster and Bonerz reporting in the ghetto include footage of locals approaching them and making it clear that if they're ever seen in those parts again, they'll be dead. Scenes of Verna Bloom searching for her son evolve into her assimilation into a human blockade against the tanks that are called in to quell the protests. In perhaps the most famous image, riot police attack and beat protesters while throwing tear gas at the camera. This isn't CGI, folks, especially during the famous moment where you can hear the soundman exclaiming, "Look out, Haskell: it's real!"

Meanwhile, in the movie summer of 2008, I doubt you'll be seeing the Space Chimps or Kung Fu Panda infiltrating the G8 summit seeking an end to World Bank monetary policies.

MOVIE REVIEW • WEB-OF-LIFE DRAMA • BY KATHLEEN BELL 1509 words

Children Of Paradise?

ACTUALLY, THE CHARACTERS IN *THE EDGE OF HEAVEN* DON'T SEE MUCH HAPPINESS AS THEIR LIVES INTERSECT

THE EDGE OF HEAVEN

Directed by Fatih Akin. Starring Hanna Schygulla, Nurgül Yesilçay, Baki Davrak, Tuncel Kurtiz. Opens Fri., Aug. 29.

★★★★☆

There's a point near the beginning of *The Edge of Heaven* where Nejet, the withdrawn academic son, brings his gambling, drinking, terribly lonely father Ali a book. Ali's natural response is to ask what it's about; after a beat of consideration, Nejet simply tells him to read it.

In his second feature film, writer/director Fatih Akin (whose 2004 debut *Head-On* won him armloads of international awards) makes the question "What is it about?" almost impossible to answer. Take your pick: fraying cultures and filling cultural divides, father-son relationships, mother-daughter relationships, home, human foibles, fate, death, all viewed through Akin's slow, steady, slightly bluish camera lens.

The Edge of Heaven flits back and forth between Turkey and Germany, its non-linear script relating two inward-spiralling and, unbeknownst to the characters, interconnected stories which never quite meet.

Ali, played with slippery charm by Tuncel Kurtiz, attempts to fill his lonesome days by offering a Turkish-born prostitute, Yeter, an altogether unromantic way out of Hamburg's red-light district: for 3,000 euros a month, she will live and sleep with only him. Ali's son disapproves of the whole thing, until he finds out Yeter's career choice is financing her daughter's education. Predictably, Ali's brutish chauvinism begins to show and Yeter ends up dead after an alcohol-fuelled fight.

Ashamed of his father, Nejet travels down to Istanbul to find Yeter's daughter Ayten so that he can offer to pay for her education and fulfill Yeter's wishes. However, Ayten (Nurgül Yesilçay) has disappeared — later we learn she escaped to Ger-



Girl On The Edge | Political activist Nurgül Yesilçay escapes from Turkey to Germany in *The Edge of Heaven*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

many as a political refugee. So what do you do when your father is a murderous john and you can't make amends to the daughter that's left behind? You buy a German language bookstore shoved into the streets of Istanbul and wait. All the while, Ayten is running about Hamburg, fall-

a certain *Crash*-like reliance on coincidence. *The Edge of Heaven* is nevertheless a fascinating look into our shrinking world and the cultural collisions that result. (It won the award for Best Screenplay at last year's Cannes Film Festival.)

The international cast all make

falls for Ayten, a girl Susanne thinks "likes to fight too much," turns into wrenching grief upon her death. While she says little in the film, the lingering shots of her crumpled body as she tries to deal with her daughter's passing say more than enough.

Why does the impulsive, child-

OH WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE WHEN FIRST WE PRACTICE TO MAKE A HEARTFELT ARTHOUSE FLICK. DESPITE A CERTAIN *CRASH*-LIKE RELIANCE ON COINCIDENCE, *THE EDGE OF HEAVEN* IS NEVERTHELESS A FASCINATING LOOK INTO OUR SHRINKING WORLD.

ing in love with a gal named Lotte, getting extradited, getting her lover killed, and so on.

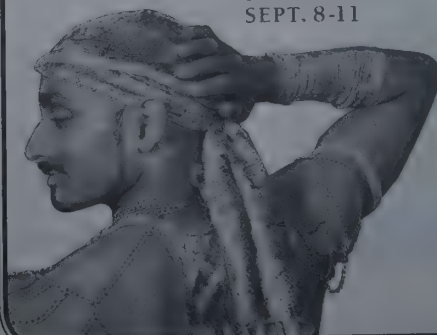
Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to make a heartfelt arthouse flick. Despite the plot's complicated configuration and

strong impressions while avoiding any overwrought performances, except, perhaps, Yesilçay as the hot-headed activist. Veteran German actress Hanna Schygulla stands out as Susanne, Lotte's mother. Her quiet concern for her daughter as she

like Lotte have to die? What is the meaning of forgiveness? Of atonement? What is this story "about"? *The Edge of Heaven* is preoccupied with questions like those — and the answers which we always just seem to miss.

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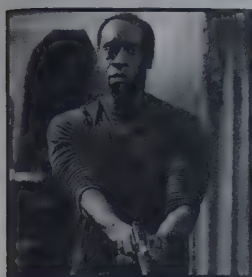
BRABYLCOMI A.D.



STARTS FRIDAY!

Check directory or log onto www.cineplex.com
www.empretheatres.com or www.lobute.ca
for locations and showtimes

BEYOND THE BLURBS • ALTERNATIVE CRITICS HAVE THEIR SAY



Sleeper Cell Superstar | Don Cheadle wrestles with his conscience while getting into gunfights in *Traitor*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

THIS WEEK: TRAITOR TRIES TO TURN THE WAR ON TERROR INTO A POPCORN THRILLER

Katey Rich, *Cinema Blend* | It's late summer, so you can't blame *Traitor* for not bothering to try too hard. It's got Don Cheadle and Jeff Daniels in it, after all, which is reasonable star power, and a hot-button plot revolving around terrorist attacks on American soil. Making *Traitor* something more than a disposable B-movie was possible, but at this point in the release calendar, way more effort than it was worth. If espionage thrillers are your thing, this one may just tide you

over until James Bond comes back in November."

Amy Nicholson, *Baroffice* | "What's dull about the globe-trotting thriller *Traitor* isn't solely Cheadle's Oscar-seeking stiffness. It's hard to fault him for being flat when the script is determined to reduce its people to platitudes-sounding symbols who expound their philosophies in the near-identical repetitive poetry of southern preachers. Proclaims one, 'Terrorism is theatre, and theatre is always performed for an audience.' The only blunt voice belongs to Neal McDonough, playing a hybrid of Dick

Cheney and Ted Nugent given to bumper-sticker incendiaries like 'Arrest all the Muslims!' and 'Sorry, left my Bill of Rights at home.'"

David Denby, *The New Yorker* | "Despite its fresh settings (it was shot in Morocco and Mar-seilles as well as Chicago) and its interest in how terrorists recruit and train people and talk to one another, the movie falters just when it should be at its boldest: it suggests that Cheadle's character is trapped by his situation, and the solution that he comes up with is presented, oddly, as a moral victory when it's actually a disaster. The filmmakers,

I think, got in over their heads and couldn't decide whether they were making an action thriller or a drama of conscience; they wound up flubbing both. *Traitor*, at its most ambitious, tries to dramatize the fervent sense of solidarity among radical Islamists. It also awkwardly reminds us that not all Muslims advocate violence. Yet there's an incendiary element in the notion that seemingly ordinary American Muslims have been 'planted' by foreign terrorists, and are just waiting for a signal to blow themselves and other Americans to smithereens in its blundering way, the movie spreads a little paranoia and mistrust."

Scotiabank Theatre Edmonton with IMAX

SHOWTIMES AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

GARNEAU

8712-109 STREET • 433-0728

VICKEY CRISTINA BARCELONA 14A
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, Sat Sun & Mon matinees 2:00

PRINCESS 14A
10:37 • 87 AVENUE • 433-0728

EDGE OF MAYDAY 14A
Nightly 4:45, 9:15, Sat Sun & Mon matinees 2:00

THE UNKNOWN WOMAN 18A
Nightly 8:50, 9:10, Sat Sun & Mon matinees 2:30. Sexual violence

PARKLAND 14A
205 Main Street, Spruce Grove • 967-2332

BARTON A.D. 14A
Nightly 7:00, 9:15, matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 1:05, 3:10, Violence.

DISASTER MOVIE 14A
Nightly 4:50, 9:00, matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 1:15, 3:30, Crude content.

TROPIC THUNDER 14A
Nightly 7:10, 9:25, matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 12:50, 3:00, Coarse language, crude content.

STEP BROTHERS 14A
Nightly 7:00, 9:15, Coarse language, crude content, not recommended for young children.

DARK KNIGHT PG
Nightly 6:00, Violence, lightning scenes, not recommended for young children.

MAMMA MIA! PG
Nightly 4:45, matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 1:00, 3:15, Music for maximum love 1:00.

THE HOUSE BUNNY PG
Nightly 5:00, 9:00, matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 1:00, 3:10, Movies for Maximum Love 1:00.

SEX AND THE CITY 18A
Nightly 7:00, Coarse language, not recommended for young children.

DEATH RACE 14A
Nightly 7:05, 9:20, matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 12:45, 3:25, Brutal violence, coarse language, gay scenes.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Matinees Sat Sun Mon & Tues 1:00, 3:20

METRO CINEMA 14A
9828-101A AVENUE (ZEDLER HALL, ORADEL THEATRE) • 475-9712

NO SCREENINGS IN AUGUST

GRANDIN THEATRE 14A
GRANDIN HALL, 618 WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE., ST. ALBERT • 458-9822

TROPIC THUNDER 14A
Nightly 7:10, 9:25, 9:35, 9:35, Coarse language, crude content.

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS 18A
Nightly 5:20, 9:30, Substance abuse.

MAMMA MIA! PG
Nightly 1:05, 3:20, 7:25.

DISASTER MOVIE 14A
Nightly 7:05, 9:10, 9:00, 8:55, No paces.

HOUSE BUNNY PG
Nightly 12:40, 2:25, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Nightly 1:00, 3:00, 6:45.

THE ROCKER PG
Nightly 4:50, 8:45, Coarse language.

LEDCO CINEMAS 14A
4702-50 St. Leduc • 788-2728

THE HOUSE BUNNY PG
Nightly 1:00, 3:30, matinees Fri Mon 1:10, 3:35, Coarse language, not recommended for young children.

DISASTER MOVIE 14A
Nightly 7:05, 9:25, matinees Fri Mon 1:05, 3:25, Crude content.

TROPIC THUNDER 14A
Nightly 7:10, 9:35, Coarse language, crude content.

COLLAGE 18A
Nightly 6:55, 9:20, matinees Fri Mon 12:55, 3:30, Coarse language, crude content.

WALL-E G
Nightly 1:00, 3:30.

THE HOUSE BUNNY PG
Nightly 1:00, 3:30, matinees Fri Mon 1:10, 3:35, Coarse language, not recommended for young children.

DISASTER MOVIE 14A
Nightly 7:05, 9:25, matinees Fri Mon 1:05, 3:25, Crude content.

TROPIC THUNDER 14A
Nightly 7:10, 9:35, Coarse language, crude content.

COLLAGE 18A
Nightly 6:55, 9:20, matinees Fri Mon 12:55, 3:30, Coarse language, crude content.

WALL-E G
Nightly 1:00, 3:30.

THE HOUSE BUNNY PG
Nightly 1:00, 3:30, matinees Fri Mon 1:10, 3:35, Coarse language, not recommended for young children.

DISASTER MOVIE 14A
Nightly 7:05, 9:25, matinees Fri Mon 1:05, 3:25, Crude content.

TROPIC THUNDER 14A
Nightly 7:10, 9:35, Coarse language, crude content.

COLLAGE 18A
Nightly 6:55, 9:20, matinees Fri Mon 12:55, 3:30, Coarse language, crude content.

WALL-E G
Nightly 1:00, 3:30.

WETASKIWIN CINEMA 4 PLEX

384-506, Wetaskiwin • 352-3922

THE HOUSE BUNNY PG
Nightly 7:00, 9:30, matinees Fri Mon 1:10, 3:35, Coarse language, not recommended for young children.

DISASTER MOVIE 14A
Nightly 7:05, 9:25, matinees Fri Mon 1:05, 3:25, Crude content.

TROPIC THUNDER 14A
Nightly 7:10, 9:35, Coarse language, crude content.

COLLAGE 18A
Nightly 6:55, 9:20, matinees Fri Mon 12:55, 3:30, Coarse language, crude content.

WALL-E G
Nightly 1:00, 3:30.

NEW WEST MALL 8 14A
WEST EDMONTON HALL, PHASE II ENTRANCE 7 • 444-1829

LAKE PLOVER HOTTEL (PUNJABI W/EST) PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 6:30, 9:30, Sat Mon 1:40, 3:40, 9:20, Coarse language, violence.

SPACE CHIMPS G
Fri, Tues Thurs 1:10, 3:10, 4:40, 6:40, 9:10.

THE LOVE GURU 14A
Fri, Tues Thurs 6:30, 9:30, Sat Mon 1:35, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:45, Crude content.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 6:30, 9:30, Sat Mon 1:20, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:45, Violence, lightning scenes.

KUNG FU PANDA PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 6:30, 9:30, Sat Mon 1:50, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30, Tues Thurs 7:10, 9:30.

SEX AND THE CITY 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, Coarse language, not recommended for young children.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 6:30, 9:30, Sat Mon 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:40, Tues Thurs 6:50, 9:40, Violence, lightning scenes.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 6:30, 9:30, Sat Mon 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:40, Tues Thurs 6:50, 9:40, Violence, lightning scenes.

IRON MAN PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 6:30, 9:30, Sat Mon 1:45, 4:40, 7:20, 9:30, Tues Thurs 7:20, 9:30, Not recommended for young children, violence.

SOUTH EDMONTON 14A
1525 9th Street • 438-8585

BARTON A.D. 14A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

COLLAGE 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

TRAITOR 14A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

DISASTER MOVIE 14A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

MAMMA MIA! SING-A-LONG PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

DEATH RACE 14A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE HOUSE BUNNY PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE LONGSHOTS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE ROCKER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

MURKINS 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

TROPIC THUNDER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PARTS 2 PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

DEATH RACE PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

MURKINS 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

TROPIC THUNDER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PARTS 2 PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

DEATH RACE PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

MURKINS 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

STEP BROTHERS

Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE DARK KNIGHT PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

WALL-E G
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

NORTH EDMONTON 14A
14231-137th Avenue • 732-2223

BARTON A.D. 14A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

COLLAGE 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

TRAITOR 14A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

DISASTER MOVIE 14A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE HOUSE BUNNY PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE ROCKER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

MURKINS 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

TROPIC THUNDER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PARTS 2 PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

DEATH RACE PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

MURKINS 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

TROPIC THUNDER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PARTS 2 PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS PG
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STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

MURKINS 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

TROPIC THUNDER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PARTS 2 PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

DEATH RACE PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

MURKINS 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

TROPIC THUNDER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PARTS 2 PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR PG
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DEATH RACE PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

MURKINS 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

TROPIC THUNDER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, No paces.

CLAREVIEW 10 CINEMAS

4211-139TH AVENUE • 472-7600

THE DARK KNIGHT PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, lightning scenes, not recommended for young children.

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS 18A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, lightning scenes, not recommended for young children.

TROPIC THUNDER 14A
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, lightning scenes, not recommended for young children.

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, lightning scenes, not recommended for young children.

THE ROCKER PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, lightning scenes, not recommended for young children.

THE HOUSE BUNNY PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, lightning scenes, not recommended for young children.

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THE HOUSE BUNNY PG
Fri, Tues Thurs 7:00, 9:15, 10:30, Violence, lightning scenes, not recommended for young children.

DE

“SPIDER-MAN WAS THE FIRST SUPERHERO WHOSE LIFE GOT **CONSIDERABLY WORSE** AFTER HE GAINED HIS POWERS.

BOOK REVIEW • THE MAN BEHIND SPIDER-MAN • BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY (693 words)

In Excelsis Ditko

STRANGE AND STRANGER SHINES A LIGHT ON STEVE DITKO, THE COMICS WORLD'S PRICKLIEST GENIUS

STRANGE AND STRANGER: THE WORLD OF STEVE DITKO

By Blake Bell, Fantagraphics Books, 216 pp. \$43.95

Like Peter Parker, his creator, comics artist Steve Ditko, never fit into his surroundings that well. He lived with fetish artist Eric Stanton, but his own work was sexless. His version of the '60s counterculture came from Ayn Rand instead of the hippie scene — “With great power comes great responsibility” and all that. In one *Spider-Man* story, Ditko even shows Parker scoffing through a protest, activists bragging about skipping classes with all the subtlety of a Jack Chick morality leaflet as Spidey waves them off. Too much work to be done.

And yet, surrounded by hustlers and a long list of editors who paid him a lowly \$6.50 per penciled-and-inked page, you can see how Ditko came to wholly embrace Objectivist ideals of freedom, fair pay, and self-reliance — so much so that he abandoned outright *The Amazing Spider-Man*, the legendary character he co-created with scripster Stan Lee, over simple matters of plot integrity.

But his protests keep him a hero of sorts to comics fans, especially as he wangled writing credits on pages he'd been scripting for months as Lee was off building his handshake empire. Ditko is one of the few essential names in comic history — he just had to endure a little more fame than fortune, unlike some of his more lubricious contemporaries.

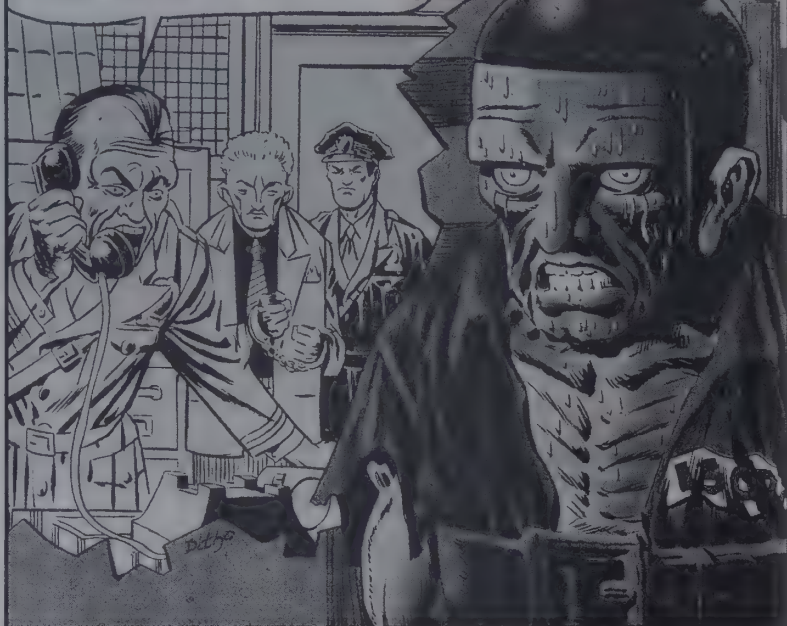
Now Ditko is the subject of a new biography entitled *Strange and*

Stranger: The World of Steve Ditko. Like any writer should, author Blake Bell admires Ditko's toil and especially his ability to stand up for his principles even as he takes shots at his sometimes-overworked, isolationist, fan-alienating tendencies. He quotes Alan Moore, whose unmatched *Watchman* graphic novel satirized Ditko's political ideas and post-*Spider-Man* characters. “I have to say that I found Ayn Rand's philosophy laughable,” Moore says. “It was a ‘white supremacist dreams of the master race’ burnt in an early 20th century art form. I would basically disagree with all of Ditko's ideas, but he has to be given credit for expressing those ideas.”

Biographies, like musical best-of compilations, tend to glow in their subjects' early heydays — the moments which first caught our attention. Ditko's ride through Charlton Comics — a bargain-basement outfit run by two Italian ex-cons with absolutely no interest in quality — steered his early career for the bumps he'd hit repeatedly throughout his professional life. His early shaping of *Spider-Man*'s action sequences allowed replacement John Romita to blossom into the title's definitive artist, and the twisting visual mysticism Ditko brought to *Dr. Strange* is still parroted, never perfectly.

Each page of *Strange and Stranger* is filled with intelligently chosen illustrations which illustrate changing comics trends from the Comics Code-imposed limits of the '50s and '60s, right up to the present day. Bell also attempts to wedge open Ditko's extremely guarded personal life, pulling out cosmetic details such as Ditko's mother providing the inspiration for Aunt May's hairstyle. Later, as his politics take over, Ditko's cold

operator...YOU'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH--he's innocent!



Ditko Does Death Row | Steve Ditko's flair for the dramatic can be seen in this vintage panel, reproduced in *Strange and Stranger*. IMAGE BY STEVE DITKO

antihero Mr. A scorns a robbery victim for having pity on her attacker: “To have any sympathy for a killer is an insult to their victims.” Harsh.

Bell quotes Ditko as saying, after his break with Stan Lee and Marvel Comics, “Stan chose not to know, to hear, why I left.” You can almost see him walking away in silhouette. Still, as Bell points out, besides his skill with the pen, Ditko's grounded style predated the comics' trend to-

wards everyday realism by decades. Ditko and Lee's *Spider-Man* was the first superhero who life got considerably worse after he gained his powers.

In *Strange and Stranger*, Bell takes an objective long view of an influential comic artist who was determined to define right and wrong for us whether we liked it or not. Lavishly illustrated with images created by Ditko (as well as several illustrators who

were influenced by him), *Strange and Stranger* deserves a place alongside such other must-have history books as Arlen Schumer's *The Silver Age of Comics* and Marvel's typically self-hyping *Five Fabulous Decades of the World's Greatest Comics* — and, of course, the comics themselves. Throw in Michael Chabon's Pulitzer-winning novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* for good measure and you're set.



Outstanding in His Field | Latitude 53 executive director Todd James breaks free from the gallery walls to take in Edmonton's urban wildlife in *City of Dreams*. PHOTO BY JULIANNA BARABAS

ARTS NEWS • NOTABLE HAPPENINGS FROM THE STUDIO TO THE THEATRE

LOOSE LIMBS!

See James. See James Dance.

Who's that tall fellow in a suit and tie capering around the tall grass of urban Edmonton? Why, it's Latitude 53's Todd James, who's spent the last 11 months as artist in residence with Mile Zero Dance, and now has a piece called *City of Dreams* to show for it. (It runs Aug. 29-30 at the MZD studios at #201, 10923-101 St.) “It's physical storytelling,” James explains. “There's no talking; just a series of vignettes portraying characters who live on Edmonton's streets. I've been doing a lot of site-specific work in fields, street corners, places like that, so a piece like this in a seated format is quite a departure for me.”

NIMBLE FINGERS!

The Cat In The Hat

When it comes to conmen, Harry Anderson is the antithesis of David Mamet's hard-bitten heroes, with his boyish looks and the vintage suits draping his lanky frame, he made sleight-of-hand scams and sneaky bar bets seem almost wholesome. The onetime star of TV's *Night Court* is the featured attraction at Festival Place's Under the Big Top Festival, and his show *Wise Guy* (Aug. 29, 7:30pm), with its entertaining mix of magic, music, and autobiography, should expose a new generation of Albertans to the joys of pulling coin tricks on your friends, making playing cards disappear, and wearing snappy fedoras.

HAPPY TOES!

Kahuna Continues!

The Fringe has folded up its tents, but *Fringe holdovers* continue through the next two weekends. Here's a roundup. At the Arts Bams (409-1910), you can still catch *House, The Particulars*, Mr. Fox, *Jake's Gift*, *Killing Kevin Spacey*, and *Hamlet (Solo)*. At the Varscona Theatre (433-3399/420-1757), they're holding over four shows: *Happy Toes*, *A Body of Water*, *2 Queens* and a *Joker*, and *The Man in Black... listed*. And finally, the MacLab Centre of the Performing Arts (986-9501) in Leduc will be hosting two performances of *Albertine* in *Five Times* on Sept. 5 and 6. Phone for ticket info and showtimes.

What's So Bad About A Sales Plateau?

IT'S CRAZY TO EXPECT THE FRINGE TO SELL MORE TICKETS, AND OTHER LESSONS FROM THE BIG KAHUNA

Remember last year's Fringe? The year when everything from the relocation of the beer tent to the new online ticketing system was a new source of outrage among artists and audiences alike? It was a year, according to legend, when the shortage of places for playgoers to congregate and the palpable lack of positive energy on the Fringe grounds had a disastrous impact on the box office, with only 75,000 tickets sold.

Well, according to an article in Monday's *Edmonton Journal*, "The resistance and downright hostility ... were allayed [this year]." And that 180-degree turnaround in attitude was reflected gloriously at the box office, too, with Fringe executive director Julian Mayne estimating this year's ticket sales at...

Uh... hang on... Is this all? Around 77,000? (And pretty much the entirety of that 2,000-ticket "surge" can be attributed to the sold-out run of *Happy Toes*, Stewart Lemoine's first Fringe show in six years.)

In other words, basically the same number of people paid to see plays during last year's alleged "negative energy" Fringe as they did at this year's "positive energy" Fringe. I'm sure the same number will probably

show up at next year's, uh, "neutral energy" Fringe.

As an occasional Fringe artist, the festival's stagnant indoor attendance figures can be alarming. Given the hundreds of thousands of people who turn up at the Fringe grounds, it seems like that indoor attendance figure ought to be 20,000 or 30,000 higher at least. Right?

Well, not necessarily. I look at the problem a different way. For one thing, I'd argue that the fact that the Fringe is able to convince 77,000 people to pay \$12 to sit in a sweltering venue in Old Strathcona for 60 or 90 minutes and watch a live performance with virtually no production values, when Scarlett Johansson is making out onscreen with Penélope Cruz at the Garneau Theatre just a few blocks away is a pretty amazing feat of salesmanship.

I'd also argue that even though that figure of 77,000 indoor tickets sold represents only about 55 per cent of total theatre capacity, it would take an extremely optimistic person to expect that number to climb much higher. I'm going to be brutal here, but I would say that even in a good year at the Fringe, broadly speaking, only about 60 to 65 per cent of the shows are worth spending \$12 on in the first place. That's just the natural spectrum of good and bad; and isn't it a little ridiculous to expect audi-

ences to fill the theatres even at mediocre plays? Even a noon-hour and midnight performances? Maybe the Fringe has reached a plateau in the number of tickets it can sell – but maybe that plateau is perfectly reasonable.

That's not to say all the Fringe needs to do is remain on cruise control for the next two decades. If audiences aren't as excited about Fringe plays as they used to be, maybe part of the reason is that Fringe plays have lost some of their novelty too.

When I was editing *SEE's* Fringe Review Edition, it seemed as though every other review I read contained the phrase "switches effortlessly from character to character." True, despite the fact that shows like *Boom* and *Jake's Gift* were among the best plays at The Big Kahuna, the fact remains that the "multi-character one- or two-person show" has become an overly familiar, predictable Fringe staple, with flashy shifts between thinly conceived characters too often used as a substitute for true drama.

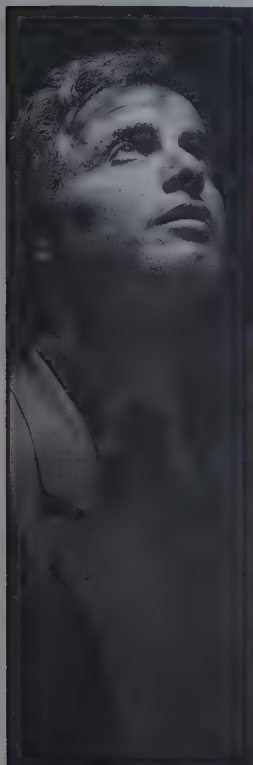
As a reviewer, I'm getting progressively less interested in seeing actors "switch effortlessly from character to character"; I'd much rather see them stick with one character through the entire play – like Frank Zoller did in *The Good Thief*, to name one example – and keep delving deeper and deeper into the char-

acterization with each scene.

There's a reason you see so many one- and two-person Fringe shows, of course: the economics of the Fringe make it a challenge to turn a profit on anything much more elaborate. Which makes me wonder if the Fringe might consider allowing fewer plays into the festival next year, and giving those plays one or two more slots in the schedule. With just a little more budgetary breathing room – and more of a chance for word of mouth to take effect – we might see more companies breaking out of the one-hander/two-hander mould (or at least companies getting a few more prime-time berths to balance out those often-empty midnight shows).

Then again, I'd also like to see ticket prices go down – \$12 is more than most people are willing to pay for a Fringe play. So there go those extra profits (Hey, I never said my ideas were flawless).

But hey, the fact that artists continue to debate each change in Fringe administrative policy so heatedly is a sign of the festival's continued importance in Edmonton's artistic life. Indeed, keeping Fringe artists completely happy may be an impossible task. But if it's true that great art comes from great discontent, the Edmonton Fringe should keep producing masterpieces for many years to come.



Hail To The Thief | If the Fringe is going to be full of one-man shows, let's hope they take after *The Good Thief*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

VISUAL CULTURE • LEOTARDS, LEOTARDS, LEOTARDS 587 words

That's One Way Of Eliminating Fat Cells



MY LITTLE EYE LINDSEY ROCK THIS WEEK, SEE'S RESIDENT VISUAL CRITIC WEIGHS IN ON KODOO'S OMNIPRESENT AEROBICS-THEMED CELLPHONE ADS

Are you ready? Ready, that is, to deconstruct a cellphone ad that has been driving me buggy for months now? You see, I've been puzzled – maybe even losing a bit of sleep – trying to disentangle the layers of questions posed by Koodo's wacky '80s aerobics-themed advertising campaign.

Part of the challenge of even trying to unpack these ads is that they're so over-the-top that they're obviously not meant to be taken seriously. The campaign is smart precisely because it's so cheesy. With their "so bad they're good" aesthetic, the ads defy

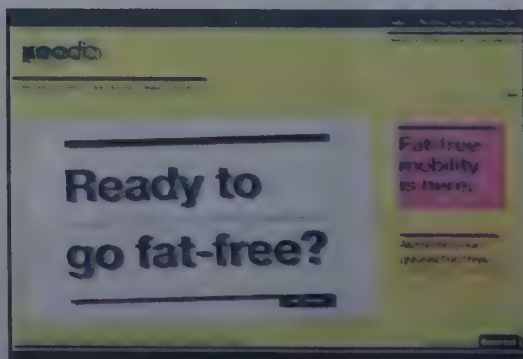
intellectual analysis in much the same deadpan way that *Napoleon Dynamite* does. You either love them or you hate them.

And God help you if you hate them, because Koodo's ads are everywhere, from billboards to TV spots, from an extensive website to brightly coloured print ads right here in the pages of *SEE* Magazine. The ad accompanying this article is typical of the bunch: "Ready to go fat-free?" asks a sticker designed to look like a food label. Typically such a proposition would be neither outlandish nor offensive. Devices or diets to shed those "excess" pounds appear in women's magazines all the time, and anti-fat discourse is a standard element of food commercials, fitness programs, and fashion photography.

To be truthful, I can't say I don't have my own body image baggage either. I'm exposed to as much popular culture as anybody, and popular culture dictates that fat is ugly – "fat" itself is an ugly-sounding word. The media constantly advocates a very specific, generally unattainable and unattainable slim body type. It's

understandable, then, that the promise of looking "better" would appeal to a lot of folks. I'm sure I'm also not the only person who feels uneasy about the way "thinness" and "fitness" tend to be conflated, packaged, marketed, and sold together, to the point where "fatness" becomes unthinkingly associated exclusively with negative values – ugliness, unhealthiness, undesirability.

What does all this have to do with Koodo's campy ads? Hang on – I'm getting there. So: here we have a pay-as-you-go cellphone plan. Basically, under the plan, you don't have to pay for the things you don't want. From what I can tell, it's the equivalent of the \$15 Virgin phone I recently bought to use in the U.S. – Virgin phones have a built-in SIM card so you have to use a Virgin plan with a Virgin phone. It's a good deal; I feel in control of my cellphone plan! Control: what a delicious feeling – and in their ads, Koodo promises you control over that which is undesirable and excessive. It cuts out the fat from other cell plans. Sounds good, doesn't it?



No Kudos For Koodo? | Koodo's cellphone plan might be great, but are their ads making me hate my body? IMAGE SUPPLIED

... And yet I'm so confused. Koodo is exploiting the media's obsession with all things "fat-free" while simultaneously spoofing American Apparel's quasi-pornographic advertisements, sending up the '80s aerobics craze in a fun and silly way, and cleverly twisting anti-fat slogans so that they apply to mobile phones.

Weird. It's just so weird. There are so many conflicting ideologies contained in these harmonious-looking

ads that I'm offended and impressed all at once. I simply can't reconcile it in my brain, and they've been stuck inside there for months now. Maybe I need to go somewhere and clear my head – someplace where I don't have to think for a change. Luckily, I'm currently residing in a gorgeous box canyon. I'll just go enjoy the absence of billboards, stare at the perfect mountains that surround me ... and turn my cellphone off.

EXHIBITS

ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL 10186 106TH ST. For info visit www.albertacraft.ca or call 780-486-5611 EXT. 221.

A.J. OTTEWELL ARTS CENTRE 590 BROADMOOR BLVD. SHERWOOD PARK. For info call 780-449-4443.

THE ARTERY 9535 JASPER AVE. Hours: Tue-7 p.m., or by appointment. For info visit theartery.ca.

ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA ENTERPRISE SQUARE #100, 10230 JASPER AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu, 4-8 p.m.; Sat, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. For info visit www.artgalleryalberta.com or call 780-422-6223.

ARTS&SAS STUDIO GALLERY 300 PL. 1027 106TH ST. Hours: Tue-5 p.m., or by appointment. For info visit www.artshab.com or call 780-439-9532.

BEARCLAW GALLERY 10403 124TH ST. 780-482-1204. For info visit bearclawgallery.com.

BILLIE CURVE GALLERY GLENORE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, 10230 111TH AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

CABINET GALLERY NOKOMIS CLOTHING, 10238 82ND AVE. For info visit instituteaparcure.ca.

THE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE 925 118TH AVE. For info visit www.theartofcarrot.ca or call 780-471-580.

CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA 9103 95TH AVE. For info call 780-461-3427.

CHRISTEL BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY 9627 82ND AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. "Mother and Child" by Christel Bergstrom. For info call 780-439-9270.

DOUGLAS UDELL GALLERY 10332 124 ST. Hours: Tue-Fri, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For info visit www.douglasudellgallery.com or call 780-488-4445.

ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO 12419 STONY PLAIN RD. New works from various artists. For info visit www.waynemackenziegoldsmith.com or visit 780-482-4402.

EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY MAIN FLOOR ATRIUM, ENTERPRISE SQUARE 10230 JASPER AVE. Hours: Daily 7 a.m.-11 p.m. For info visit www.extension.ca.

FAB GALLERY 1 FINE ARTS BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS. Hours: Tue-Fri, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat, 2-5 p.m. For info call 780-492-3261.

FRINGE GALLERY 10516 WHYTE AVE. For info visit www.fringegallery.ca or call 780-432-0240.

FRONT GALLERY 12312 JASPER AVE. For info call 780-488-2952.

GALLERY AT MILLER STANLEY A. MILLER LIBRARY, 87 CHURCHILL SQUARE. For info call 780-496-7030.

HARDCOURT HOUSE GALLERY 360 PL. 10275 112TH ST. For info visit www.harcourtthouse.ca.

JEFF ALLEN GALLERY STRATHCONA SENIORS CENTRE 10831 UNIVERSITY AVE. Hours: Mon-Thu, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For info call 780-433-5807.

JOHNSON GALLERY 7771 85TH ST. Edmonton oil painters working in-studio throughout the season. For info visit www.susanjohnson.com or call 780-465-6171.

LANDO GALLERY 1170 105 AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For info visit www.landogallery.com or call 780-990-1161.

LATITUDE 53 10248 106TH ST. Hours: Tue-Fri, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat, 12-5 p.m. For info visit www.latitude53.org or call 780-423-5253.

MACGAWAN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS 10405 156TH ST.

Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat-Sun, 12-5 p.m.

MANDOLIN BOOKS 6419 112TH AVE. For info call 780-479-4050.

MC MULLEN GALLERY 8440 112TH ST. U OF A HOSPITAL. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat-Sun, noon-6 p.m. Free admission. For info call 780-471-7152.

NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE 9704 111TH AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Tue/Thu, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; 6-8 p.m. For info visit www.ninahaggertyart.ca or call 780-474-7671.

NORTH EDMONTON SCULPTURE WORKSHOP 10546 115TH ST. Daytime viewing by appointment call 780-482-7685.

OUT OF THE FIRE STUDIO 12274 JASPER AVE. For info visit www.outofthefirestudio.com or call 780-378-0240.

PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY 10183 112TH ST. Hours: Tue-Sat, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For info visit www.peterrobertson-gallery.com or call 780-455-7479.

PICTURE THIS GALLERY 959 ORRIZ RD. SHERWOOD PARK. For info visit www.picturethisgallery.com or call 780-463-3038.

PLANET ZEE DESIGN CENTRE 10055 80TH AVE. Ongoing displays include functional sculpture and jewelry by Sandra Ling Fernandes, metal sculpture by Linda Maines and Bianca Khan, and paintings by Quentin Maki and Tim Rechner. For info visit www.planetzee.com.

PORTAL GALLERY 8300, 9414 91ST ST. Hours: Tue-Fri, 12-8 p.m.; Sat, 12-9 p.m. Featuring Marie Rohr until SEP. 12. For info visit www.theportalgallery.com.

PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY 19 PERROW ST. ST. ALBERT. For info call 780-460-4310.

ROWLES & CO. LTD. MEZZANINE LEVEL 1030 103RD ST. For info visit www.rowles.ca or call 780-426-4035.

SCOTT GALLERY 10471 124TH ST. Hours: Tue-Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For info visit www.scottgallery.com or call 780-488-3619.

SCULPTURE STUDIO & GALLERY SHERWOOD PARK Figurative and abstract sculpture by Horst D. For info visit www.horst-sculpture.ca or call 780-662-4160.

SELFRIDGE POTTERY STUDIO 9844 88TH AVE. Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. For info visit www.selfridgepottery.ca or call 780-439-9296.

SNAP GALLERY SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA PRINT ARTISTS 10309 97TH ST. Hours: Tue-Sat, 12-5 p.m. For info e-mail snap@snapartists.com or call 780-423-1492.

STUDIO GALLERY 11 PERROW ST. ST. ALBERT. Hours: Tue, 12-8 p.m.; Fri, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For info call 780-460-5993.

TU GALLERY 10718 124TH ST. For info visit www.tugallery.ca or call 780-452-9662.

URBAN ROOTS 10418 82ND AVE. Hours: Wed-Sat, 12-4 p.m. For info call 438-7978.

VAAA GALLERY VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA ASSOCIATION 360 PL. 10275 112TH ST. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10-4 p.m.; Sat, noon-4 p.m. For info call, 780-421-1731.

WEST END GALLERY 12308 JASPER AVE. Hours: Tue-Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For info visit www.westendgallerytld.com or

call 780-480-4892.

WUNDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS 10159 WHYTE AVENUE. Hours: Tue-Fri, 6 p.m.-3 a.m.; Sat-Sun, 3 p.m.-3 a.m. For info call 780-436-2286.

WORKS GALLERY 8200, 10225 100TH AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri, noon-5 p.m. For info visit www.works.ca or call 780-426-7122.

ZIEGLER HUGHES GALLERY & SERENDIPITY FRAMING 9860 90TH AVE. Hours: Tue-Wed, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thu-Fri, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat, noon-8 p.m.; Sun-Mon, noon-5 p.m. Anahwaacalli Mexican jewelry and artworks by Canadian and Mexican artists. For info call 780-433-0388.

ZOCALO 10826 95TH ST. Hours: Mon-Wed, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thu, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun, noon-5 p.m. International crafts, artwork, and tropical flowers. For info call 780-428-0754.

MUSEUMS

ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM 11410 KINGSWAY AVE. Hours: Daily, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Edmonton bush pilot display in WWII-era double-wide, double-long hangar. For info call 780-431-1175.

CANADIAN PETROLEUM DISCOVERY CENTRE LEXUC #1 DISCOVERY WELLS LEXUC. Guided tours, tailored education programs for classes K-12, safety courses and industry training, campground, library, and historical archives. For info visit www.p-dk.org or call 1-866-987-4323.

CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES 10440 108 AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Over 50,000 catalogued photographs and slides from the 1880s to the present. Free admission. For info call 780-496-6710.

JOHN WALTER MUSEUM 10661 91A AVE. Free admission, donations gladly accepted. For info visit www.edmonton.ca/johnwalter or call 780-496-8787.

LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM #118, PRINCE OF WALES ARMOURIES HERITAGE CENTRE, 10440 108TH AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

MUSEE HERITAGE 85 ST. ANNE ST. ST. ALBERT. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun, 1-5 p.m. Admission by donation, suggested donation \$2. For more info call 780-459-1528.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA 8555 ROYAL RD. Hours: Tue-Sat, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Wed, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Unit SEP. 6, "Les Francophones en Alberta: Courage et Détermination" tells the history of Francophones in Alberta through archival records. For info call 780-427-1750.

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM 12845 102 AVE. Hours: Mon-Sun, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For info visit www.royalalbertamuseum.ca or call 780-453-9100.

STRATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES 913 ASH ST. SHERWOOD PARK. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For info visit www.strathcona.com or call 780-476-8189.

TELLUS WORLD OF SCIENCE 11271 142ND ST. Permanent exhibits include The Body Fantastic, Mystery Avenue, The Greens' House, Space Place, Discoveryland, and DinoBen in the Explorer Gallery. For info visit www.odysseyum.com or call 780-453-3344.

DANCE

HIGHLIGHT • STORYTELLING



Story time | Fort Edmonton Park presents the 20th annual T.A.L.E.S. Storytelling Festival.

T.A.L.E.S. Storytelling Festival • Aug. 31-Sep. 1 (1-5 p.m.) • Fort Edmonton Park

It's funny to think that only a hundred years ago Edmontonians used to huddle around their campfires and wood stoves to listen to good 'ol Gramps reminisce about the old days. This pastime was a huge form of entertainment. Remember: all grandpa had to ride around was a beat-up wagon pulled by a stubborn Shetland pony. And he had to do that infamous two-mile walk to school every day. In three metres of snow. Uphill, both ways! T.A.L.E.S. and Fort Edmonton Park hope to keep Gramp's tradition alive.

DANCE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE 2ND & 4TH TRV. EVERY MONTH, 7:30 P.M. RIVERDALE HALL, 9231 100TH AVE. For info call 780-467-1285.

RODA DE CAPOEIRA SATURDAYS, 1-2 P.M., CAPOEIRA ACADEMY 10540 JASPER AVE. A free performance of Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts and music, invented by African slaves. For info visit www.capeoiraedmonton.ca or call 780-709-3500.

p.m. House: Aug. 29, 9:30 p.m. and Aug. 30, 6:45 p.m. The Particulars: Aug. 29, 5:30 p.m. and Aug. 30, 2 p.m. Killin' Kevin Spacey: Aug. 30, 9 p.m. and Aug. 31, 5:45 p.m. Hamlet Solo: Aug. 30, 4 p.m. and Aug. 31, 3 p.m.

VARSCONA THEATRE FRINGE SHOW HOLD-OVERS Happy Toes: Aug. 26-30, 9 p.m. A Body of Water: Aug. 27-28, 9 p.m. 2 Queens and a Joker: Aug. 29-30, 9 p.m. The Man in Black... Listed: Aug. 31, 9 p.m. and Sep. 1, 7 p.m.

THEATRE

MACLAC CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (LEDUC) FRINGE SHOW HOLD-OVER Albatrine in Five Times: Sep. 5-6, 8 p.m.

RAPID FIRE THEATRE VARSCONA THEATRE, 10329 83RD AVE. Hours: every Fri. @ Sat. 11 p.m. TheatreSports Fridays, Chimprov Saturdays: 510 at the door. For info visit www.rapidfiretheatre.com or call 780-448-0695.

TRANSALTA ARTS BARN'S FRINGE SHOW HOLD-OVERS Rainier Hersch: All Classical Music Explained: Aug. 27, 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Mr. Forc: Aug. 28, 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Jake's Gift: Aug. 28, 9:30 p.m. and Aug. 29, 3:30 p.m. and 7:30

LIVE COMEDY

RAPID FIRE IMPROV VARSCONA THEATRE, 10329 83RD AVE. TheatreSports Fri, 11 p.m. Chimprov Sat, 11 p.m. 510 at the door. For info call 780-448-0695.

THE COMIC STRIP BOURBON ST. WEST EDMONTON MALL. Hit or Miss Mondays, amateurs compete for audience approval. Tuesdays Alternative Comedy Night. For info call 780-433-5999.

THE LAUGH SHOP LONDON/EDMONTON, 66 ST. & 137 AVE. Hours: Thurs. Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m. and a 10:30 p.m. on Saturdays. For info visit www.thelaughshop.ca or call 780-476-1010.

MO & JESS KILLSUSIE

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

BY GARY HENDERSON

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10 AFTER 10:00 P.M. / 11:00 P.M. / 12:00 P.M. / 1:00 P.M. / 2:00 P.M. / 3:00 P.M. / 4:00 P.M. / 5:00 P.M. / 6:00 P.M. / 7:00 P.M. / 8:00 P.M. / 9:00 P.M. / 10:00 P.M. / 11:00 P.M. / 12:00 P.M.

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There's No Shame In Seeking Therapy



**MY MESSY BEDROOM: JOSEY VOGELS
A FEW SESSIONS CAN OFTEN
CURE SMALL SEXUAL PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE
LEAD TO DIVORCE**

I'm not saying that we all should go running to a sex therapist at the first sign of trouble, but for God's sake, if you're married and you haven't had sex in five years and you're not talking about it, get some bloody help.

"Most people wait too long to get help," says Tobi Klein, a certified marriage, couple, and sex therapist in Montreal. "They wait until the situation becomes a crisis, until they

One way to at least curb this resentment is to make sure she's satisfied first. Then, he needs to learn how to control his ejaculation, using the stop/start method or the squeeze technique (i.e., stopping ejaculation by squeezing the base of his penis when he's about to come).

Klein says the hardest problem to deal with (quite literally) is retarded ejaculation. This problem often doesn't get dealt with because the woman initially thinks she's got Joe Stud on her hands. Eventually, the chafing gets a little hard to take and the couple seeks help. Klein says being unable to come inside a woman often results from a phobia, such as fear of pregnancy, fear of losing control, or fear of infection. She had one case involving an epileptic who was afraid of coming because he likened it to a seizure.

These men can usually ejaculate while masturbating, but they need to

however, there are no hands-on demonstrations in Klein's therapy, much to the disappointment of some patients. One guy was so upset that treatment didn't involve actually having sex with Klein that he slapped her.

Sometimes sexual differences can't be resolved, like the married guy who suddenly developed a deep desire to wear diapers around the

house on weekends. His wife was furious and wanted nothing to do with it, threatening to leave if his fetish continued. He had to decide what was more important: his marriage or his Huggies.

If you're considering sex therapy, Klein recommends you first go for a checkup to make sure nothing physical is contributing to the problem. Be sure your therapist is certified with a

recognized professional association.

Sex therapy is not covered by provincial healthcare, but ask about a sliding scale. Even then, it ain't cheap. Expect to pay \$100-\$200 per session, and remember that some problems can take up to a year to solve. But as Klein rightly points out, even at a minimum of eight sessions at 200 bucks each, it's still cheaper than divorce.

THE SAD THING IS, THE LONGER YOU WAIT FOR TREATMENT, THE HARDER IT IS TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM. PREMATURE EJACULATION, FOR EXAMPLE, IS ONE OF THE EASIEST CONDITIONS TO TREAT, BUT MOST COUPLES HAVE A HARD TIME EVEN ADMITTING IT'S A PROBLEM.

are totally depressed or can't function, or until one person threatens to leave the relationship. When it comes to sex problems, people wait until they turn into relationship problems."

I certainly know how easy it is to leave things to the last minute, but really, you might want to deal with the fact that your husband can't come inside you before you start thinking about having a baby.

Retarded ejaculation (not being able to come during intercourse), along with premature ejaculation and erectile dysfunction (a kinder term for impotence) are the three most common problems among the men Klein sees. For women, the biggies are lack of orgasm, lack of interest in sex, and painful sex.

The sad thing is, the longer you wait for treatment, the harder it is to correct the problem. Premature ejaculation, for example, is one of the easiest conditions to treat, but most couples have a hard time even admitting it's a problem. "You have a guy who comes really quickly and the woman isn't happy about it, but she doesn't want to hurt his feelings so she doesn't say anything," Klein explains. "He doesn't feel there is a problem. Sure, he knows he comes a little fast, but it's not the end of the world."

That is, not until she gets sick of it and stops having sex with him, or he starts giving her a hard time because she never wants to have sex.

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What Happens Online Ought To Stay Online



SAVAGE LOVE: DAN SAVAGE

IN OUR INCREASINGLY FRANK, INCREASINGLY WIRED WORLD, ONLINE SEXHIBITIONISM SHOULDN'T BE A SCANDAL

So I have been in a relationship with the same guy since I was about 16. It's been a little over four years now, but I came out to him a year ago about the fact that I'm bisexual, which he has no problem with. So since then, I have had wild fantasies about a threesome with a really hot girl. But it's a lot harder to arrange that than it seems. Do you have any suggestions about how we can find a third? We've already tried Craigslist with no luck. *Where The Girls At?*

You think your luck with Craigslist is bad, WTGA?

Jeff Gradney, a television news

reporter in Las Vegas, lost his job after some anonymous douchebag alerted the management at KTNV-TV "Channel 13 Action News" to the fact that Gradney and his girlfriend placed an ad on Craigslist seeking a third. Sexophobia? Definitely. Homophobia? Perhaps. Gradney and his girlfriend were looking for another dude. And for this infraction — which had nothing to do with his job performance — Gradney was fired. So much for "Action News," huh? (People who've had threeways — or not — are invited to come to Gradney's defence. Send an outraged e-mail to KTNV-TV's vice president and general manager Jim Prather at jprather@ktnv.com.)

Gradney's dismissal came a week after a pair of nationally ranked college wrestlers — including a 2007 national champion — were booted from the University of Nebraska wrestling team after it emerged that both had jerked off for an Internet porn site. (Solo jerkoff scenes, nothing gay about 'em, although the website is aimed at gay men.)

Sexophobes will say that Gradney and those college wrestlers got what was coming to 'em. People shouldn't let it all hang out on the Interwebs —

or, in the case of the wrestlers, spurt out — unless they're prepared to lose their jobs, their spots on the team, their shot at being an "American Idol," etc. But with so many people documenting their lives online, and with so many people using the internet as a tool to seek sexual fulfillment, and in our thoroughly exhibitionist culture, one might think that people could picture themselves in Gradney's shoes, or those wrestlers' singlets, and cut 'em a little fucking slack.

If I may tweak a phrase: What happens online really ought to stay online. Your internet personals shouldn't be something that can be used against you by bluenoses at work; if you like to show off and you want to wank for the web, that shouldn't matter to the douchebags who run the NCAA. (Hello, NCAA? Want to generate interest in the sport? Encourage more college wrestlers to make JO videos.) Here's hoping that we soon reach a web-exposure tipping point, a time when everyone has something out there online that's sexually explicit or deeply embarrassing or both. When that blessed day arrives, we'll think twice about firing someone or cut-

ting someone from the team for the crime of letting it all hang out online because, hey, we've got it all hanging out online, too.

As for how to find a third, WTGA: Most people looking for thirds want someone who's totally trustworthy and honest, someone who comes guaranteed to be disease-free, but they also want that someone to be a complete stranger whom they'll never see again after the threeway is over. Those someones don't exist, WTGA. If you really want to have a threeway, you either go with the likely-to-be-skeazy stranger you met online and risk dismemberment or you approach a trusted, attractive friend and risk rejection.

I am a 30-year-old woman in a relationship with my childhood sweetheart. My boyfriend and I got together when we were 15. That's 15 years ago. It was — and remains — an intense and extraordinary intellectual compatibility. He's the funniest and smartest person I have ever met. Sure we've had our ups and downs, but there is a lot of good stuff there.

Okay, cutting the chase: I have never slept with another man and I don't want to. I no longer want to have sex with him and have been having sex with women behind his back. I have long been attracted to women and suspect I would have been in a relationship with one by now if my life had taken a different path. I love my boyfriend, his family, our friends, our life. But nothing makes me feel more "me" than lying next to a woman after we have gotten each other off for hours on end. Do I come out, wreck my life and

his, all because of one small part of who I am? Or do I stop being an unfaithful bitch and make things work with the man I love? *Why Do I Have To Dig Chicks?*

First off, WDIHTDC, no one has to dig chicks. It's an elective, not a course requirement. (Except at Brown, of course.)

Now, seeing as you and your boyfriend are young enough to get out there and find new partners relatively easily, and seeing as this man who you profess to love has a right (1) not to be lied to for the rest of his life and (2) not to be cheated on for the rest of his life and (3) to be with a woman who actually wants to have sex with him, there's only one possible course of action here. Thank your boyfriend for his years of faithful service — honor his service — and then cut his ass loose.

If you play your cards right, WDIHTDC, you may be able to keep your ex, his family, and your mutual friends in your life. But if you continue to lie and cheat and munch carpet on the down-low, and you get caught and outed, it's unlikely that your ex, his family, and your mutual friends will want to see your lying, cheating, carpet-munchin' face ever again.

I just read the advice you gave to the kid married for six months. His wife bought a strap-on once he brought up anal. You threw a line in there about the University of Pittsburgh and *Bend Over Boyfriend*, an instructional video about pegging. Are you implying that the Pitt girls are into this? I live 10 minutes from the main

SAVAGE cont'd pg. 43



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ASTROLOGY • AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 3 • BY THE KID

CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

PISCES (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20)

No matter how good it is, before you act on advice, stop this week to think it over twice. It's not that you're bein' intentionally misled, just that you're responsible for your actions, so think with your own head. No one else'll take the blame, so why not make sure it's the same with praise 'n' acclaim?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

Lately your flame has been kinda lame 'cause you've accepted the rules and are playin' the game. Trouble is, when it comes down to it, you don't want approval, you just wanna do it. This week, the best lesson for you to learn is that fires don't ask if it's okay to burn!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)

You bulls may be beasts of burden and can carry cargo without your back hurtin', but how long can you keep bearin' that load while you're walkin' down this pothole-ridden road? This week, there ain't no reason for despair or wrath 'cause if you don't like your direction, you can take a new path!

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

Blessed with an active imagination, you've got lots of ideas concernin' most folks' situations. However, it ain't your problem and it ain't your place to solve problems for people that they won't themselves face. That's why, this week, you should avoid givin' advice and simply stick to bein' supportive and nice!

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 21)

You've got a soft heart, but remember as well that it's safely protected by claws and a shell. This week you've got no reason to worry if you come under attack 'cause your armour can make you a tough one to crack – but unlike a nut, you can use your claws to fight back!

LEO (JULY 23 - AUGUST 22)

What you thought was success that was gonna last has turned out, at best, to be a din' fast. Thankfully, it's no reason to get all depressed 'cause it's just your illusions that have been messed. Now that the Cosmos has opened your eyes, you can forget runner-up and work on first prize!

VIRGO (AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22)

Especially when it comes to love, it's often been said a fool goes where angels fear to tread. There's a reason for that, y'know. This week, temptation'll hit but don't be so quick to succumb to it. Your powers of attraction may be at a high, but anything real can wait for some time to pass by!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22)

This week, somewhere deep in your soul, you'll feel like you're bein' prodded by some unseen pole. Instead of worryin' about whether the stick's really there, listen to the message to be generous and share. When you start actin' in that particular way, you'll see some very big changes within a few days!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21)

You're likely to bury your very own treasure if you don't open your chest to joy, love and pleasure. When the lid's off you can load it with gems and jewels untold, and it won't even matter if there's the odd piece of fool's gold. As long as you keep livin', lovin' and learnin', incomparable riches are what you'll be earnin'!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21)

When everyone's got sticks but you've got a gun, will you protect folks from bullies or be the biggest one? This week, you'll have a chance to see what you're made of, cruelty and greed or kindness and love. When the Cosmos hands you a power tool, use it wisely – don't waste it like a fool!

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19)

There ain't no cliché that could be any more lame than "Don't hate the player, G, hate the game." It's the players that perpetuate it by persistin' to play instead of producin' new ones that work in positive ways. This week, you can keep on followin' fools or find ways to win by makin' up your own rules!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18)

It's not that it's an offer you can't refuse, but you've got way more to gain than you've got to lose. Of course, it also means takin' a gigantic leap off of a cliff that's pretty dang steep. Don't worry, though. As long as you're serious and not messin' around, you'll learn how to fly before you hit the ground!

SAVAGE from pg 42

campus and would love to find a dominant pegger. Just don't know how I would even begin the conversation.

Submissive U-Peggee

Did I say that U-Pitt shows *Bend Over Boyfriend* as a part of freshman orientation? I may have mis-spoken. Or mistypen. It's just that I recently gave a speech at U-Pitt, and the students there asked so many questions about pegging during the Q&A that I just assumed that *Bend Over Boyfriend* is shown to incoming classes at that fine institution of higher learning. (And I'm not saying that it shouldn't be shown, only that it isn't. It most definitely should. Indeed, *Bend Over Boyfriend* should be shown continuously in every frat-house in North America from late August through early June.) But I would beg you, SUP, not to stalk U-Pitt's campus in search of a dominant pegger. If you're having trouble finding a pegger through normal channels (surfing the web, asking women you're dating, hanging out at Wendy's), SUP, then you'll just have to rent one.

Oh, and speaking of speaking at colleges: If you want me to come to your campus and give a talk – we

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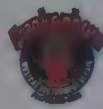
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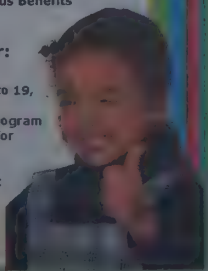
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SAFETY SUPERVISION. Drilling & Service Rigs. Must have experience. Contact David or John 780-336-5770; 780-384-3601. Fax 780-384-2227. Email: safety1@xpionet.com.

SOUTH PEACE NEWS in High Prairie has an immediate opening for a reporter/photographer. Fax resume to 780-523-3039 or email marby@cablenet.com.

SOUTH ROCK LTD. is seeking Road Construction Personnel: Roller Operators, all experienced in the field. Phone: Worldwide Caregivers Inc. 780-709-0005; www.worldwidecaregivers.ca.

THE PINCHER Creek Echo is on the look-out for an ambitious and enthusiastic reporter. Call 403-627-3252 for more info or email: publisher@pinchercreekecho.com.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY - Red Deer area, qualified wrench technician/heavy equipment hauler with clean Class 1 driver's licence wanted. Oilfield and safety certificate preferred, competitive wages, benefits and safety bonus program in place. Please fax resume to 403-793-2536.

WESTWARD PRODUCTS Ltd. seeking metal fabricators, powder coat painters for Olds, AB manufacturing plant. Willing to train on CNC equipment. Competitive salaries, 40 hour weeks. Fax resume: 403-556-1566.

1600. Volunteers Wanted
Brain Neurobiology Research Program at U of A Hospital is seeking MAJOR DEPRESSION sufferers who are interested in participating in a research study. Please call 780-407-3906

1600. Volunteers Wanted

Brain Neurobiology Research Program at U of A Hospital is seeking healthy and depressed subjects (not currently taking antidepressants) for various studies. Reimbursements of expenses provided. Call 407-3221 (depressed only), 407-3906 (healthy or depressed), or 407-3775 (female healthy or depressed, including pregnant and just delivered) for more information.

Friends International 'Voluntourism' opportunities. Make friends. Make a difference. Contact Us for Details friendsinternational@abilityscout.org

Healthy volunteers required for studies with the Brain Neurobiology Research at U of A. 780-407-3906. Reimbursement provided.

Looking for volunteers interested in the environment and water pollution. Please email krolheiser@tucanada.org

Paralympic Sports Association (PSA) is a nonprofit organization that offers recreation & sport programs to persons with physical disabilities. We are a volunteer run organization and are looking for individuals to help out at one of our Fall-Winter Programs. Contact the PSA office at 780-339-9687 or check out our website at www.parasports.net

Red Cross Humanitarian Issues Program seeking volunteers. Help promote Humanitarian Issues in Edmonton. Laura Keegan laura.keegan@redcross.ca

The HUB is where we go to connect to Change the World! HUB = "Humanity Unites Brink" Learn more: www.lighthawk.org Come to our weekly meetings (Wednesdays) Info: lighthawk@hubb.org Peace to all!

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton requires crisis line volunteers. Call/email Erin, 780-423-4102, erinn@scab.ab.ca

Volunteer for the weekend to end breast cancer. Call 780-424-9255

Volunteers needed on September 28th at Fort Edmonton and the Zoo. For information email rvolunteer@edmonton.ca

YOUNG Edmonton is sending 10 volunteers to Northern Ireland. Visit www.youcan.ca Dealing with Difference project

1700. Employment Wanted

NANNIES/CAREGIVERS skilled workers/labourers. Overseas workers (nannies, construction workers, truck drivers and so much more) are seeking employment in Canada. All are well trained and experienced in the field. Phone: Worldwide Caregivers Inc. 780-709-0005; www.worldwidecaregivers.ca.

ROCK DRUMMER NEEDED. Bass, Guitar, and Vocals. Need a Hard Hitting Drummer With the Beats to Prove It. No Amateurs. Pros Only. Contact Paul. 780-233-4269

Vocalist and Bass Player needed for original heavy style project. Good gear, solid drive a must. Call Aaron 744-7076.

2040. Music Instruction

Drum Lessons, multiple styles with focus on technique, RDC grad, 20 years experience. West-mont area, good bus routes. 780-474-4627

Photographer looking for male and female models, 18-40 to improve portfolio. CD of photographs for compensation. Call 604-209-6121.

Photographer looking for models. Attractive, outgoing females wanted for serious 2009 calendar project. No experience necessary. Contact (780) 604-5621

2010. Musicians Available

26 y/o guitarist of three years interested in punk/rock or reggae ready to jam with some peeps with similar musical interests. Home phone number: (780) 637-9252

Bassist, looking for band. Stoney99@gmail.com

Drummer looking for a kick-ass rock/metal band to adopt me. Inf AC/DC, Crue, Ozzy, Zeppelin. Edmonton serious 2009 calendar project. No experience necessary. Contact (780) 604-5621

2010. Musicians Available

Female singer looking for a band. I enjoy all genres except jazz and metal. My voice lends itself to soul, R&B, blues, etc. I am new to this, but am willing to try almost anything online! (Have completed several singing competitions including Country Vocal Spotlight, making it to the semi-finals!) Email: c.desranelau@hotmail.com, PH: 780-454-0968.

2020. Musicians Wanted

A Lead Bass Player and Riff Oriented Guitarist are needed for Ormus. Must be Creative, Positive, and Professional. Prefer ages 25 to 45. No hard drug users or ego maniacs please. Ph 780-265-0262 or www.myspace.com/ormusrocks

Bass player with vocal abilities needed for original funky blues/rock band. Pro attitude please. Call 636-3171.

Edmonton PUNK/METAL band All Else Falls looking to collaborate with artists for upcoming release. You provide synth/classical talent, we provide pro software. Please email band at allsefalls.ca

Edmonton PUNK/METAL band All Else Falls seeking Bass player. Vocals & strong stage presence a must! Please email band at allsefalls.ca

Female background singers (2) wanted for casual classic rock band. Harmony's a must. Call Kevin @ 780-953-9913.

Female singer wanted. Samples at myspace.com/danefearrills. Ph. Ryan 780-990-2866. 18+

Indie Rock/Alternative band seeks vocalists ages 16-19. Wide variety of influences and musical tastes. We have a full PA and are in contact with many major industry professionals. Contact Matt. 780-604-4199

Looking East seeks 2nd guitarist, reliable and able to practice 2 times a week. www.myspace.com/lookingeast1 call 757-9725

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Profitable songwriter looking for talented minds to work on original material. Rock, folk, and blues influenced. Call Billy at 634-9741 or email at nunaber@hotmail.com

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Vocalist and Bass Player needed for original heavy style project. Good gear, solid drive a must. Call Aaron 744-7076.

2040. Music Instruction
Drum Lessons, multiple styles with focus on technique, RDC grad, 20 years experience. West-mont area, good bus routes. 780-474-4627

2200. Massage Therapy

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2300. Models

Photographer looking for models. Attractive, outgoing females wanted for serious 2009 calendar project. No experience necessary. Contact (780) 604-5621

3010. Auctions

FABULOUS Fall Antiques & Collectibles Auction, September 7 - 10 A.M. Madden Hall - west of Crossfield, AB. Oak furniture, gorgeous glassware, limoges, oil lamps, gramophones. Pignum Auction 403-568-8555; www.auctionsales.ca

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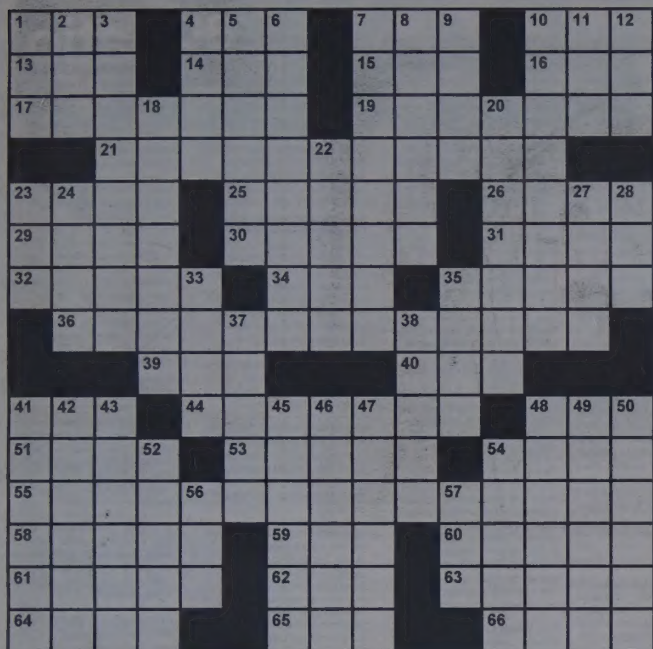
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9005. Personal

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 GRAD TRL BEATS
 SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

HIT THE BRICKS

A CLASSIC CASE OF ONE-UPMANSHIP

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

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ACROSS

- 1 Not a lot
- 4 A followers
- 7 "Would You Like to Buy ___?" ("Sesame Street" song)
- 10 Smog watchdog; abbr.
- 13 "American Gladiators" co-host Laila
- 14 Iberia's cont.
- 15 "That's funny!" on the message boards
- 16 "Mayor of Simpleton" band
- 17 Theatrical sculpting shrubbery
- 19 Emphatic speaker's phrase
- 21 Je9ns
- 23 Cremation containers
- 25 Miniseries whose final episode was the third-most-watched scripted show in U.S. history
- 26 Philosopher David Hume, for one
- 29 Exasperated exhalation
- 30 Doctor's request while holding a tongue depressor
- 31 ___ Valley, California
- 32 Waters, in Oaxaca
- 34 "___ Married an Axe Murderer" (1993 movie)
- 35 Passport endorsements
- 36 aldde
- 39 Grab a bite
- 40 Be in the red
- 41 Pink Floyd founder Barrett
- 44 They're pulled from the shell, in a Squeeze song title
- 48 ___ Kippur
- 51 One of five children born at the same time, slangily
- 53 Reese of "Touched by an Angel"
- 54 "___ Feel Like a Woman!" (Shania Twain song)
- 55 sa-le)

DOWN

- 58 Sleep problem
- 59 "All Those Years ___" (George Harrison song)
- 60 Make happy
- 61 Handle effectively
- 62 ___ Te Ching (classical Chinese text)
- 63 ___ Tag (1980s toy set)
- 64 Items on a chain
- 65 Button on some cell phones
- 66 Spider egg holders
- 1 Like some chances
- 2 "Hold On Tight" band
- 3 Getting rid of a spill
- 4 Wally and the ___ (classic TV brothers, for short)
- 5 Meat preparers that use salt and smoking
- 6 Prepare peanuts, perhaps
- 7 "Masterpiece Theatre" host Cooke
- 8 "That's okay, take your time"
- 9 Kennedy couturier Cassini
- 10 It's good to get some every so often
- 11 Bake sale sponsor, sometimes
- 12 Get one's ass in gear
- 18 Fit
- 20 Inactive
- 22 "Happy Birthday ___"
- 23 Men's 4x100 meter medley relay winners at the 2008 Olympics
- 24 Latvia's capital
- 27 Giants shortstop Vizquel
- 28 "___ the season to be jolly"
- 33 Poetry competition
- 35 Wedding exchanges
- 37 Chopin piece
- 38 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Ryan
- 41 Complain loudly

Tom the Dancing Bug © by Ruken Bolling

THE HISTORY OF DOUG

ODISSEY OF AN UNREMARKABLE CARTOON CHARACTER



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BUT THE OVERWHELMING CONSENSUS WAS THAT HE WAS NOT ART, AND DOUG FOUND HIMSELF SCOURING FOR WORK IN COMICS AGAIN.

IN 1990, DOUG LANDED A GIG IN AN OBSCURE COMIC STRIP AND SETTLED INTO THE FIRST SEMI-REGULAR WORK OF HIS CAREER.



- 42 "The Year of the ___" (1984 designation by Newsweek),
- 43 "WALL-E" co-releaser
- 45 Put under
- 46 Campaign encapsulation
- 47 The only Blues Brother to reappear in "Blues Brothers 2000"
- 48 Japan's equivalent of the Mafia
- 49 "It'll be just a moment"
- 50 Stingy people
- 52 Nobel Prize-winning physicist Bohr
- 54 Michelle Phillips and Cass Elliot, musically
- 56 Nuclear family member
- 57 Silent ___ (presidential nickname)



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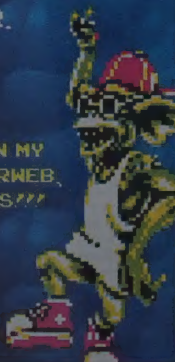
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INTERSECTIONS • PHOTOS OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS



t5h

Sightseers from Spruce Grove ride the 1921 Japanese streetcar from Old Strathcona, over the High-Level Bridge to downtown on Sat., Aug. 23.
PHOTO BY BEN LEMPHERS

FIRST PERSON • EDMONTON STORIES • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK | 912 words

The Unexpected Roommate

MY FIRST DAY BACK IN EDMONTON
REMINDS ME I'D LEFT MY TROPICAL
PARADISE FAR BEHIND

As I rode the pink taxicab to Key West International Airport, the driver asked me where I was headed.

"I'm moving to Edmonton, Alberta," I told him.

"You're moving from Key West up to Canada?" he asked. He looked at the blue ocean and the palm trees and the cloudless sky visible through the windshield. "Why would anybody want to do that?"

It was hard to come up with an answer. I'd spent the last year and a half as the executive editor of *Key West Magazine*, a city magazine based in the southernmost city in the United States. There, in the land of Jimmy Buffett and Ernest Hemingway, I'd been able to have breakfast with Annie Dillard, see movies with Judy Blume, chat up Veronica Webb, and spend the afternoon with *Babar* author/illustrator Laurent de Brunhoff – not to mention score Florida assignments for almost every Edmonton journalist in my address book. But the job was also stressful, and after 18 months, I was ready to give up the weekend swims in the Atlantic and the daily café con leches from the Cuban coffee stands in ex-

change for the familiar grey skies of Edmonton.

I had arranged over the Internet to rent a basement apartment in the Oliver neighbourhood. There were no pictures of the place on the website where I'd found it, but considering the exorbitant monthly rent I'd be paying, I figured the building would have to be pretty spectacular. (Unfortunately, a year and a half away from Edmonton, and several years before that living in ArtsHAB had given me a fairly distorted idea of what had happened to the city's rental market.)

I had arranged to meet my new landlord at 10:30 a.m.; my flight landed in Edmonton at 4:30 a.m. after nearly a full day of travel, from Key West to Minneapolis to Calgary to Edmonton. I groggily killed a few hours surfing the wi-fi in the arrivals lounge, and finally caught a cab to my new home.

I knew immediately when the cab pulled up at my new address that I had chosen unwisely. The building was one of several grey, boxy, featureless, purely functional buildings on a street lined with them, far be-

yond walking distance of supermarkets or coffee shops or even a decent used bookstore. My opinion of the neighbourhood didn't improve when the landlord showed up (20 minutes late) and led me through a narrow corridor to my new place. The fixtures and appliances were new, and the walls appeared to have been freshly painted, but none of those improvements did much to dispel the gloomy atmosphere: the door jams were crooked, the doors on the cupboards and closets were poorly hung, and the only view was of the parking lot in the rear of the building, with the yellow sign of a liquor store visible through a gap in the surrounding fence.

The landlord – a glib guy, probably 10 years younger than me, probably living in a much nicer house – produced the lease and asked me if I had a pen. I said I didn't, and he dashed out the door to get one from his car.

While he was gone, I walked through my new apartment, trying to talk myself into liking it. "This won't be too bad," I said to myself. "I can put up with this for a month or two while I look for someplace nicer." I went into the kitchen and looked inside the oven and the empty refrigerator. I inspected the relatively mildew-free shower stall in the bathroom and checked out the hall closet, which was a little smaller than I'd been hoping for. Then I went into the bedroom to see how much space I had in there.

Now, when I tell this story to friends, usually I pause here and ask, "And what do you think I found?" Nobody ever guesses correctly. They

think maybe a dead animal, or a bunch of ants. No one ever has the intuition to say, "Was it a homeless woman?"

She was crouching in the corner of the closet – I assume she scurried in there when she heard the landlord's key in the front door. I let out a startled cry when I saw her, and she let out an equally startled cry back.

"Is he coming back?" she hissed at me.

"What do you mean, 'Is he coming back?' Who are you?"

"I came in through the window!" she said. "Is he coming back?"

"I ... well, yes, he's coming back! He's just gone out to his car."

"Oh no!" she said anxiously. "He's going to throw me in jail for sure!"

And with that, she gathered up her things and scurried out the door.

A minute or two later, the landlord returned, all smiles, ready to complete the transaction. "Look," I told him. "I don't think this is going to work out ..."

I'm writing this many months later in the apartment I wound up renting instead, a 15th-floor downtown loft that, as far as I know, does not appear on the Edmonton homeless community's list of convenient places to flop. I do hope that my erstwhile roommate is doing okay, though. I'm actually grateful to her: not only did she give me the perfect excuse not to rent that dismal basement apartment after all, but she gave me a story that all the people I left behind in Key West wound up marveling at. They don't even have basements down there.

pmatwychuk@see.greatwest.ca

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